

**T.C.
ISTANBUL GEDİK UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF GRADUATE STUDIES**



**GENDER INEQUALITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: TRACING
THROUGH HISTORY**

MASTER'S THESIS

Gizem PARLADAN HATAY

Department of International Relations

International Relations Thesis Master's Program

AUGUST 2023

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T.C.
İSTANBUL GEDİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
LİSANSÜSTÜ EĞİTİM ENSTİTÜSÜ MÜDÜRLÜĞÜ

Yüksek Lisans Tez Onay Belgesi

Enstitümüz, International Relations İngilizce Tezli Yüksek Lisans Programı (21129005) numaralı öğrencisi Gizem Parlada HATAY'ın "Gender Inequality As An International Issue Tracing Through History" adlı tez çalışması Enstitümüz Yönetim Kurulunun 11/08/2023 tarihinde oluşturulan jüri tarafından *oy birliği* ile Yüksek Lisans Tezi olarak *kabul* edilmiştir.

Öğretim Üyesi Adı Soyadı

- 1. Tez Danışmanı:** Dr. Öğr. Ü. Selim SEZER
- 2. Jüri Üyesi:** Prof. Dr. Şakir DİNÇŞAHİN
- 3. Jüri Üyesi:** Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Elif GENÇKAL EROLER

DECLARATION

I, Gizem PARLADAN HATAY, declare that this thesis titled “Gender Inequality As An International Issue Tracing Through History” is original work I did for the award of the master's degree in the department of International Relations. I also declare that this thesis or any part of it has not been submitted and presented for any other degree or research paper in any other university or institution (11/08/2023)

Gizem PARLADAN HATAY



DEDICATION

I would like to start to dedicate my thesis to my family first and foremost. They instilled in me a desire to learn and made sacrifices so I would have access to high quality education from an early age. I am proud to dedicate this study to them.

Also, this is dedicated to my husband who has always only supported me throughout my years of studies. Without him, it wouldn't be the same for me to look at gender issues the same way I do now. He has the same voice that I have for inequality. His passion for justice mirrors mine. This is for you.

I would like to dedicate this thesis to my study partner, and someone who has been with all this troubled time, my little son. Even though he was just a baby in the womb, he was with me and supported me and endured all this process through all year. It was very precious time for me to finish the thesis with him. So this is for you, my boy.

I want to mention and dedicate this thesis for the last person, myself.

“So therefore I dedicate myself to myself, to my art, my sleep, my dreams, my labors, my suffrances, my loneliness, my unique madness, my endless absorption and hunger because I cannot dedicate myself to any fellow being.”

Jack Kerouac

PREFACE

I want to start by thanking my mother for putting me on this journey. Without her support I wouldn't be this much observant of what is going on around and most likely without my family's trust I wouldn't be on this academic journey of mine. Turkey and the condition of women in it always amazed me and also troubles me. That's one of the reason I tried find the reasons for gender inequality as an international issue. It was really fruitful journey for me. I want to thank my family that they are who they are. I will appreciate them and what they gave me as a person and cherish them for the rest of my life.

Along this research I had some personal problems and health issues as well as Turkey and closeby geography's had really serious earthquake. These reasons affected my process but in a way it strengthened my voice. I am expecting a baby and my husband was there for me in all aspects of my life in this period. While studying to find the reasons and the motives for the gender inequality, it was a perfect life experience to go through. For that and so many other reasons I want to mention and thank my life-partner for standing by my side and walking this road with me as my equal.

For the last but maybe the most crucial in this process was with my advisor. Assistant Professor Selim SEZER, since the beginning of my master's education and this problematic thesis process, he helped me see and learn different horizons and with them I had no idea I could be capable of express my interest with international relations. He has trusted that I would be successful and supported research even though in some ways it was not ready before he gave me his wisdom in the process.

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ABBREVIATIONS

BPFA	: Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
GGPI	: The Global Gender Parity Index
GII	: Gender Inequality Index
ILO	: International Labour Organization
MDG	: Millennium Development Goals
PTSD	: Post-traumatic stress disorder
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
WEI	: The Women's Empowerment Index
WHGI	: Wikidata Human Gender Indicator

CİNSİYET EŞİTSİZLİĞİ ULUSLARARASI BİR SORUN OLARAK: TARİHTEN İZLER

ÖZET

Tarihin başlangıcından bugüne kadar, kadınlar üzerinde etkili olan cinsiyet eşitsizliği, tekrarlanan bir sorun olmuştur. Antik çağlardan itibaren kadınlar, yasal kısıtlamalarla, toplumsal astlık durumuyla ve ekonomik bağımlılıkla karşı karşıya kalmışlardır. Bu zorluklar Ortaçağ Dönemi'nde de devam etmiş, Hristiyan öğretileri ve feodal toplumsal yapılar kadınların eğitim ve entelektüel faaliyetlere olanaklarını daha da sınırlamıştır. Bununla birlikte, dikkate değer kadın sanatçılar, yazarlar ve hamiler ortaya çıkmış ve tarih üzerinde izlerini bırakmışlardır.

Rönesans döneminde, kadınlar eğitim ve sanatsal meslekler konusunda engellerle karşılaşmaya devam ettiler, ancak bazıları kendi alanlarında önemli katkılarda bulunmayı başardılar. Aydınlanma dönemi, bilim ve felsefede ilerlemeler getirse de, eşitlik fikirleri kadınlara tam olarak yayılmadı ve bu da toplumsal normları sorgulayan feminist düşünürlerin ve aktivistlerin ortaya çıkmasına yol açtı.

Sanayi Devrimi, önemli sosyoekonomik değişiklikler getirdi ve kadınlar fabrika işlerine girmeye başladılar, ancak sömürüye ve zorlu koşullara maruz kaldılar. Bu dönem aynı zamanda haklarının ve tanınmalarının iyileştirilmesi için mücadele eden erken dönem feminist hareketlerin ortaya çıktığı bir dönemdir. 19. ve erken 20. yüzyıl, birinci ve ikinci dalga feminizmi temsil eder ve oy hakkı ve geniş kapsamlı sosyal ve siyasi eşitlik için mücadele etmiştir.

Sonuç olarak, cinsiyet eşitsizliği tarih boyunca var olmuştur, ancak kadınlar haklarını savunmaya devam etmiş ve önemli katkılarda bulunmuşlardır. İlerleme kaydedilmiştir, ancak zorluklar hala devam etmektedir. Cinsiyet eşitliğini savunmaya, ataerkil sistemleri ortadan kaldırmaya ve cinsiyete bakılmaksızın tüm bireylerin haklarını ve katkılarını tanıyan kapsayıcı bir toplum yaratmaya devam etmek son derece önemlidir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Cinsiyet eşitsizliği, Cinsiyet eşitsizliği sorunu, Tarihte cinsiyet eşitsizliği*

GENDER INEQUALITY AS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE: TRACING THROUGH HISTORY

PREFACE

Throughout history, from ancient civilizations to the present day, gender inequality has been a recurring issue that has impacted the lives of women. In ancient times, women faced legal restrictions, social subordination, and economic dependence. These challenges continued into the Medieval Period, where Christian teachings and feudal societal structures further limited women's opportunities for education and intellectual pursuits (Lytje, M., 2004). However, notable women artists, writers, and patrons emerged, leaving their mark on history (Pieretti, M., 2002).

During the Renaissance, women continued to face barriers to education and artistic professions, but some managed to make significant contributions in their respective fields. The Enlightenment era brought about advancements in science and philosophy, but ideas of equality did not extend fully to women, leading to the rise of feminist thinkers and activists who challenged social norms (Assiter, A., 1995).

The Industrial Revolution brought significant socioeconomic changes, with women entering factory work but facing exploitation and harsh conditions. This period also saw the emergence of early feminist movements fighting for improved rights and recognition. The 19th and early 20th centuries marked the First and Second Wave Feminism, pushing for suffrage rights and broader social and political equality.

In conclusion, gender inequality has persisted throughout history, but women have continually fought for their rights and made significant contributions. Progress has been made, but challenges remain. It is crucial to continue advocating for gender equality, dismantling archaic systems, and creating inclusive societies that recognize and value the rights and contributions of all individuals, regardless of gender.

Keywords: *Gender inequality, Gender inequality problem, Gender inequality in history*

1. INTRODUCTION

When we think about gender and their related issues, we can only think the recent and modern results of the issue. Without the origins of inequality and through a detailed historical background check, we may never be sure of how much the struggle for equality has succeed and how much of it failed. Modern results of gender inequality have shown us that some countries go through problems a little bit more harsh than the others. There are several shocking and maybe embarrassing examples from handful of countries to talk about the existing issue.

Gender inequality is an international issue that goes beyond national boundaries, cultural differences, and status in society. Gender inequality affects people, cultures, and economies on a global level in as well as individuals. It creates prejudice, limits opportunity, and disrespects people's rights. By limiting the full development of human potential, inequalities between men and women slow down economic growth and development.

Gender inequality does not only mean female inferiority but in some cases we may encounter with male inferiority in some countries. That's why it is crucial to examine the issues and how it can be fixed by the governments when it comes to legal encounters. When it comes to social doctrines, that is the job for social organizations and that's where public education is needed. There is no need to see it as male versus female war. It is an issue at hand to make sure the attitudes are required to be changed as fast as possible.

I came up with a few key questions through my research for my thesis that will guide my study into the complex subject of gender inequality. First and foremost, my goal is to do a thorough investigation of the extent of inequality between genders in different regions of the world. The study supports my first study goal and gives information on the universality of this problem. In addition, my second study goal is exploring the historical roots of gender-related issues so that I may trace their historical path across time. My third research goal, which is also a key component of my work, is to identify particular regions where inequality based on gender manifests

itself strongly. As my fourth research goal, I am committed to evaluating the effectiveness of international programs and projects aimed at reducing gender gaps. By pursuing solutions to these goals, I hope to broaden knowledge of gender inequality's complexity and persistence on a worldwide scale.

I personally have a strong commitment to focusing on the worldwide problem of gender inequality. My research could be a tool to spread awareness of gender inequality and encourage change because it has significant social effects. In order to understand how gender discrimination has changed over time and lasted through many eras, I decided to investigate its historical foundations.

1.1 Patriarchy and Gender Inequality: An Interconnected Analysis

Throughout history, social structures that have been linked with patriarchy and gender inequality. They have shaped the relationships between people of various genders. A social system known as patriarchy may be defined as one in which men dominate the areas of politics as well as economics. (Lorber, J., 2010) This dominance supports gender inequality, which includes many inequalities and injustices that people experience based on their gender identity. These two theories have a complicated connection that is founded in past events and developed by modern standards (Laurien, A., 2004).

This relationship has a power imbalance at its foundation. Naturally establishing and maintaining hierarchical power relations between both genders, patriarchal systems place men in dominant roles and place women in inferior positions. The root of gender inequality is this power inequality, which makes it possible for advantages, opportunities, and authority to make decisions to be divided inequally. (Lorber, J., 2010) Cultural norms that specify different duties and actions for people based on their gender increase these inequalities.

Traditional gender roles are extremely important in a patriarchal society. These norms specify how people should act in accordance with their gender, establishing standards for dress, behavior, and choices in life. Men are supposed to be protectors and providers, whereas women frequently have caregiving-focused duties given to them. The more that women are restricted to household responsibilities, the less access they have to education, job possibilities, and leadership positions. These roles

create beneficial patterns. As a result, maintaining traditional gender standards serves as a means of maintaining inequality between men and women. (Lorber, J., 2010)

Organized prejudice is yet another significant aspect of this connection. These values are frequently written into laws, regulations, and institutional practices in patriarchal society. As a result, their access to legal protections, employment prospects, and opportunities for advancement may be limited. Gender-based inequality still exists in part as a result of discriminatory actions in several contexts, including the workplace and property ownership.

Cultural and religious principles support patriarchy even more. Patriarchal systems are frequently accepted and normalized by society, which presents them as being organic or heavenly meant to be. Because of the cultural reinforcement of gender inequality, it is challenging for people to question established norms and hierarchies. (Laurien, A., 2004).

This connected relationship has results that are undesirable, including gender-based violence and discrimination (Lorber, J., 2010). Because of their inferior position in patriarchal systems, women are more subjected to assault and harassment. Such behavior becomes accepted, creating a cycle of inequality and reducing the independence and general wellbeing of women.

It's important to understand that this connection is both ways though. In order to overcome inequality based on gender, it is frequently necessary to question patriarchal systems and traditions. (Lorber, J., 2010) Societies that want to achieve more gender equality face resistance from those who want to gain from the current power structures. These efforts frequently call for changing what it means to be a man, shifting power, and supporting broader social change. (Laurien, A., 2004)

Last but not least, it should be noted that patriarchy and gender inequality are closely related, with patriarchal providing as a framework for the persistence of uneven power relationships and gender-based inequalities. (Lorber, J., 2010) In order to abolish harmful customs, laws, and institutions and build a society that is fair and equal for all genders, it is essential to understand this link.

1.2 Hegemonic Masculinity within the Framework of Gender Inequality

Gender inequality and the dominant cultural norm of hegemonic masculinity, which defines the idealized characteristics and actions associated with being a "real man," are closely related. This theory is part of R. W. Connell's gender order theory. (Demetriou, D. Z.,2001) This idea offers a perspective through which to investigate how social expectations and power relationships affect people's experiences throughout the gender range. It becomes clear how complex some masculine ideas support and sustain irregular power systems when hegemonic masculinity is understood in the context of gender inequality. (Messerschmidt,2018)

Hegemonic masculinity is fundamentally a collection of traits including domination, emotional suppression, violence, and physical strength. These characteristics frequently contrast with those associated with female identity, establishing a binary view of gender roles. However, this idea goes beyond particular actions; it also includes structural pressures and power relationships that shape society standards. (Beasley, C.,2008)

Hegemonic masculinity and gender inequality have a complex and complicated relationship. In order to establish and keep control, it strongly relies on the relationship between power and influence. Men are automatically positioned as superior in hierarchical structures created by the value of characteristics like dominance and control, which sustains inequality between men and women. (Messerschmidt,2018)

By defining some traits to masculinity while excluding others as feminine, hegemonic masculinity also contributes to the maintenance of traditional gender norms. (Beasley, C.,2008) This duality encourages the exclusion of those who don't fit these expectations, which leads to inequalities in gender through limiting opportunities and personal expression.

Emotional expression adds another depth. Hegemonic masculinity frequently restricts openness in emotions and fragility, limiting emotional expression to a role of feminine. This limitation has negative effects on both men and women, limiting the variety of human emotional experiences and preventing the development of true relationships with other people. (Beasley, C.,2008)

Women's experiences of rejection and oppression make the effect particularly clear. Hegemonic masculinity's characteristics typically involve using power over others, which frequently results in the devaluation and submission of women. (Demetriou, D. Z., 2001) By reducing women to nothing more than objects of desire, this devaluation not only supports harmful power relations but also maintains inequality between men and women (Messerschmidt, 2018).

These values also have an impact on areas like the workplace and leadership positions. A never-ending cycle of gender inequality is created when the characteristics believed to be necessary for leadership are in line with hegemonic masculinity. The persistence of these standards results in a systematic rejection of women from positions of power, while particular characteristics come to be associated with being a man (Demetriou, D. Z.,2001).

The idea's celebration of violence and power also contributes to the development of a violent culture. This culture, which is supported by hegemonic masculinity's beliefs, encourages actions that negatively impact women. These acts of violence, whether they be physical or psychological, maintain and sustain gender inequality. (Beasley, C.,2008).

But recognizing the deficiencies of hegemonic masculinity may encourage resistance to these standards (Beasley, C.,2008). Addressing gender inequality requires efforts that question and reshape masculinity. These efforts help to build a society that recognizes variety and recognises the humanity of all people, regardless of gender, by encouraging fair and more balanced definitions of gender roles.

1.3 Methodology

In order to support my argument, I have organized my research around three key theories that together provide light on the complex nature of gender inequality. First and foremost, the core of my strategy is a thorough literature study. This requires a careful analysis of previously published scholarly works that cover differences in gender across multiple geographies, eras of history, and academic fields. A detailed investigation of gender-related laws, cultural norms, and socioeconomic factors across many nations and regions will be done as part of my second strategy, which involves using a comparative perspective.

This comparison study, which is yet another crucial part of my research, aims to find patterns and differences that help us understand differences between genders completely. Last but not least, a study of history will be carried out, examining historical writings, texts, and archive materials. The goal of this thesis is to expose how gender roles have changed through time and how inequalities have persisted. My study attempts to offer a deep and comprehensive view into the complex web of gender inequality by using these techniques.

An in-depth literature review of the academic research on gender inequality is part of the technique used in this thesis. Understanding the historical, social, and cultural settings of gender inequality in various time periods is based on the literature study such as ancient Rome, medieval Europe, the Renaissance, and the contemporary day, (Fischler, S. ,1994)

The research intends to discover essential topics, ideas, and real-world evidence connected to gender inequality through an in-depth assessment of books, journals, and other relevant resources. Examining the political, social, economic, and legal aspects that have led to the oppression of women and the maintenance of gender inequities is a part of this.

To better understand women's everyday lives and social attitudes and standards around gender roles, the study technique also makes use of the main sources, like historical records, legal texts, and creative works.

The study also takes a method known as intersection taking into account the connections between gender and other social categories including race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. This methodology seeks to examine the particular difficulties experienced by people who have several minority identities in light of the unity of social inequality. Insights on women and girls from economically disadvantaged populations living in distant or isolated locations as well as on women and girls living in other geographic areas with high rates of hunger and poverty, particularly those in slums and slum-like situations, may be gained by combining these various data sources. In nations where there is ethnic discrimination, it is especially important to layer other elements where they are essential such as ethnicity. (Lorber, 2005)

The results of the examination and analysis of the literature will be combined and used to provide a detailed knowledge of gender inequality throughout history. This will fill research gaps and add to the amount of information currently accessible on the issue.

The methodology used in this thesis provides a thorough and organized investigation of gender inequality through the use of trustworthy academic sources and careful examination of the data gathered. The research attempts to give a detailed and accurate investigation into gender inequality throughout various historical periods by using a literature review and using primary sources.

1.4 Significance of the thesis

This thesis' place to make an analysis of gender inequality throughout history as an international issue makes it significant. The thesis gives insight on the social, cultural, and structural aspects that maintained inequality based on gender and limited women's rights and opportunities by evaluating several historical eras, from ancient Rome to the current age. (Fischler, S. ,1994)

This study is important for a number of reasons. First off, it offers a thorough examination of gender inequality throughout a range of historical eras. It enables an in-depth understanding of how norms in society, legal systems, and the dynamics of power have influenced women's lives over time. The thesis offers insights into the stubbornness of inequality between genders and serves with understanding the causes of current gender inequalities by looking at the historical the background.

Second, the thesis examines how gender interacts with several social norms, including race, class, ethnicity. The thesis also adds to the collection of knowledge by examining and combining a variety of academic papers, primary sources, and historical data. It points out gaps in the research, questions accepted narratives, and presents fresh viewpoints and analyses on gender inequality.

The thesis aims to increase awareness of the historical causes of gender inequality and its long-lasting effects on society by addressing the importance of this research. It also serves as a framework for further studies, campaigns.

In conclusion, this thesis has the power to enlighten and motivate conversations, arguments, and movements aimed at building an even and welcoming society where people of all genders enjoy equal rights, opportunities, and dignity.

The significance of the gender inequality has been an issue for both men and women. To be aware of the ups and downs of the issue is very important. Gender equality is a human right for this matter. The importance of this hypothesis is to establish the power, privileges, and possibilities that some people have or some people who do not possess them and this issue is directly linked to gender. This study sheds a light on how gender can affect equality and freedom in a variety of places in life. It even effects the behavior of the oppressed gender. Learning the reasons for the issue and then raising some sort of awareness towards the discrimination, oppression. Maybe then there can be more gender equal society. As long as there are problems such as inequality, discrimination in a society, it is very hard to dissolve other issues as well. However it would be wise to analyse the eras that gender inequality emerged and spread as an international issue.

1.5 About Chapters 2 and 3

Gender inequality has been an ongoing issue throughout history, affecting the lives of women in many eras and civilizations. Women had legal limitations, social oppression, and economic dependency in ancient cultures like Mesopotamia and ancient Rome, which also showed major gender differences (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M., 2018). Because it is a widespread habit to submit women to males, a break from it seems strange. What is common seems natural. Thus, the subjection of women stands out as an isolated fact within contemporary social institutions; a lone violation of what has come to be their fundamental law; and a lone reminder of an old world of thought and behavior that was destroyed in everything else but maintained in the one area of greatest universal interest. (Mill,1869) But in these communities, women still had some influence over their households and social networks.

Christian teachings and medieval social systems had an impact on the status of women during the Middle Ages (Lytje, M.,2004). The neighboring Christian churches were exclusively used for fasts and festivals, as if a massive stone tomb or a sizable temple of Jupiter Olympus were located on the St. Paul's site.(Mill,1869) Women's options for schooling and intellectual interests were limited, and they were

given to household tasks. As the idea of chivalry established, it romanticized women while also strengthening patriarchal rules. However, noted women began to support the arts and make contributions to the advancement of thought and culture. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)

The responsibilities and possibilities for women changed during the Renaissance. Humanism developed throughout this time, and there was an increase of enthusiasm for learning and the arts. There were noted female artists, authors, and patrons who challenged social expectations and made significant improvements in the social and intellectual environment when women were still subject to limitations. (Pieretti, M.,2002).

The emphasis on logic as well as growth throughout the Enlightenment period ironically contributed to the stubbornness of gender discrimination. (Assiter, A., 1995) Despite the fight for of equality and individual rights, women's duties remained exclusive to the home. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Philosophers who saw women as mentally inferior, like Rousseau and Kant, continued gender stereotypes. However, powerful women held salons and participated in intellectual conversations, establishing settings for the limited interaction of ideas and participation.

Gender dynamics experienced huge changes as a result of the Industrial Revolution. As men moved into businesses, the roles of women changed, leaving them to perform low-income workers as well as domestic workers. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). There were early feminist intellectuals who questioned gender expectations and promoted women's rights. The campaign for political equality witnessed an enormous shift with the development of the movement to allow women to vote.

First and Second Wave Feminism, with its activists calling for equality, changes in law, and acceptance by society, began in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While Second Wave Feminism attacked established gender roles.They requested several needs such as reproductive freedom, equal wages, and a stop to gender-based violence. First Wave Feminism concentrated on vote and legal equality. These campaigns raised awareness of interdependence and progressive feminism and created a foundation for improvements in women's rights. The Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) launched a fresh, progressive vision for advancing women's equality

and opportunity twenty-five years ago. Governments, donors, and civil society were urged by the BPfA to support efforts to abolish discrimination against women and girls and to step up efforts to deal with obstacles in the areas of nutrition, education, health, and other relevant fields that stand in the way of women and girls reaching their full potential. It's significant that the BPfA recognized determining as a strategic goal in addition to technical work on measure development. It specifically asked that "producers and users of statistics in each country regularly the reliability of the official statistical system and its representation of gender issues, and prepare a plan for needed improvements, where necessary"(Kabeer, N, 1995).

Overall, the fight for equality between men and women is an extensive struggle. It has lasted for millennia. Though there has been progress, there are still problems. The push for full gender equality is ongoing. Greater possibilities and change in society have been made possible thanks to the contributions made by women throughout time and the strength of the feminist movements as a whole.

Finally, analyzing of gender inequality throughout the course of history reveals an extensive range of issues and advancements. This research has revealed the connected reasons for inequality in places like Syria, India, and Afghanistan, including education, economics, and politics. Gender inequality is not local; it has an influence on communities and economies all around the world. For collective change, it is essential to understand its universality. The findings encourage change. Let's put knowledge into practice by promoting broad education, eliminating prejudices, and advancing a change in policy. In the context of equality, combined efforts create a future where each step counts.

2. TRACING GENDER ISSUES IN HISTORY

2.1 Gender Identities and Social Hierarchies

Gender inequality includes a complicated and changed origin, impacted by components such as history, culture, economy, and society. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M., 2015). Conventional gender roles have strengthened gender inequality in many societies, assigning distinctive roles and expectations to men and women (Tisdell, C., 2019). These gender roles are frequently based on biological differences between males and females but moreover have been formed by social standards and expectations.

Women have experienced oppression and prejudice in many forms throughout history. This also include having less access to political power, employment prospects, and education less than men. It proves that the existence of inequality between the genders through time and countries. Laws, customs, and cultural standards that deny women the same opportunities as men contribute to these inequalities (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M., 2018) The concept of male supremacy, which surrounds our culture like the atmosphere we breathe in, has never been fully examined for its core absurdity. And yet, this culture of control would not exist if men weren't thought of as having a natural right to be superior (Hooks,2004).

Financial issues like the difference in wages between men and women and the natural tendency for women to be grouped and centered in low-paying industries. (Gonzales, C., Jain-Chandra, S., Kochhar, K., Newiak, M., & Zeinullayev, T.,2015). Women working in these low-paying industries have also added so much inequality to this gender imbalance in many nations. (Huffman, M.,2016)Women are far more likely to experience poverty than men, especially in developing nations. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Living in an under-developed country might restrict their access to essential resources and services let alone having an equal pay with men. (Oelz, Martin; Olney, Shauna; Tomei, Manuela 2013: 40).

A complete new approach is needed to address inequality based on gender, including changes to customs, rules, and laws, as well as improvements to economic and educational possibilities. (Tisdell, C.,2019). It also involves opposing gender norms and stereotypes and at the same time balancing gender equality as a basic human right.

Analyzing the almost 600 artefacts that have been recognized as having been dedicated to the gods by non-royals in Early Mesopotamia during the third and second millennia BCE in order to remember others and themselves. Through an examination of female individuals, it specifically aims to follow trends in item gendering. The link between female believers, gods, and certain item categories, such as female genitalia, is one example of such a pattern. We also show that the general patterns in object choice are complicated by elements like status by using a cross-cultural approach to women's identities. For instance, some women sacrificed maceheads to the gods, which are often objects associated with men. Thus, memorial items made by private persons provide important data for studying Mesopotamian religious thought and behavior (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020).

Despite the uncertainty surrounding recent discoveries, these finds may reveal light on whether the gender inequality is rooted in genetics or human culture. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) People are not born with gender inequalities, thus it cannot be a biological phenomena. However, it is likely a cultural issue that has endured throughout history (Machenbach, 2005:270).

It is supported by social, cultural, and political structures that support gender roles, expectations, and rules. Rather than being a natural or permanent order, patriarchy is an oppressive structure that can and needs to be destroyed. A more fair and equal society must be established by acknowledging and fighting patriarchy.(Millett,1970) Social and gender inequalities appear to have intensified as a result of migration and private property ownership. Due to their complexity, gender inequalities cannot be analyzed apart from social problems. Men are brought up in patriarchal cultures to think that they have the right to rule and control women and that they should submit. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) All recent oppressive and dominating institutions were built on the foundation of this cultural mindset, which was reinforced by religious doctrine. (Hooks,2004) Assuming that the imbalance between the genders are just coming from genetics would also mislead the source of the problem. To have

a deeper understanding of the causes of gender inequality, additional investigation and evidence are required.

2.2 Expectations of Gender Roles and the Differences

Women have experienced huge injustice in regards to their rights as humans and even within their own home throughout history because they were seen as inferior. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Although some countries have made progress in addressing gender issues, women remain different from men. When it comes to difference, they are able to have children. As a result of even this difference, debates over abortion, contraception, and the fight over the rights for women persist even in the modern day. The denial of these rights is sometimes referred to as a "war against women," a situation that has lasted for quite awhile and is not expected to get better anytime soon (Tisdell, C.,2019). However, people may take action to address gender inequality if anyone can become aware of its causes.

It's a common delusion that half of people has always been silenced. Women have historically contributed to society's development in several fields including politics, art, and science. Due to patriarchy and cultural norms and social structures that have restricted women's opportunities and presence in many different kinds of sectors. (Tisdell, C.,2019) Women's contribution and accomplishments are often ignored or underestimated. However throughout history there have always been many outstanding women who have contributed a lot to society and fought against injustice and gender stereotypes. It is crucial to acknowledge and appreciate the achievements that women have made for the society. It should be the aim towards establishing more welcoming and equal groups where everyone regardless of their gender has the chance to succeed in life.

Some of the many great women who have contributed significantly to history and fought against gender discrimination and stereotypes are Sappho, Joan of Arc, Hatshepsut, Cleopatra VII, Elizabeth I, and Christina of Sweden and so many others. (DK Publishing, 2017:8,70,76). Since women have consistently occupied influential roles throughout history, it is important to appreciate and acknowledge their efforts. However, it is crucial to recognize that due to patriarchy and its cultural norms and institutional systems that have benefited mostly men. That's why women have frequently been outnumbered in positions of authority and have experienced major

prejudice. (Tisdell, C.,2019) Although keeping patriarchal system is in their best interests, men are not to blame for it. Men are given authority, privilege, and control over women as a result of the patriarchal system's hierarchical structure. This system favors men at the price of women's independence and freedom.(Millett,1970) While it is true that women always had a crucial part in forming civilizations, gender biases have frequently missed or underestimated their efforts.

While gender inequality and imbalance have been frequently discussed in many nations, most of the study has concentrated on particular case studies of exceptional women. These women were influential in certain locations and historical times. (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020). While studies offer insightful information, they frequently do not offer an in-depth and clear picture of how gender equality and women's position have changed through time and between different nations. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020)To get a deeper knowledge of the details of gender inequality and to determine effective ways for advancing equal opportunity for women and women's empowerment, it is critical to carry out more study and analysis of historical and present data. (Tisdell, C.,2019)

Considering the simple fact that gender balance is an ongoing topic of discussion among numerous nations, a great deal of research has focused on researching a handful of remarkable women. It is for analyzing the status of women in a specific place and historical period. These studies provide useful information. But they don't have an in-depth understanding of how women's position has developed through time and in other countries. That's why there is still no complete understanding of how the status of women has altered. (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020).

There are several studies showing in ancient Mesopotamia and ancient Rome about the gender roles. These are very relatable examples yet amazing facts because some of these fact which will be listed down are not acted upon years and centuries later. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020)

2.3 Gender Dynamics in Mesopotamia (Approximately 4000 BCE)

When we look at some historical cases, we can see that women's position and roles in society were somewhat different than they are now. This demonstrates how Mesopotamia was. It was a historic location in the Near East. The area has seen the growth of early human civilizations including cities, writing, and laws. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Also, it highlights the significant and numerous responsibilities that women had in Mesopotamian culture in terms of social, economic, and religious areas. Thus it means women played an important and maybe indispensable part of the society. The same principle was supported in *Women in Antiquity, Women in Ancient Mesopotamia* by Stephanie Lynn Budin;

“Mesopotamia was a region of the ancient Near East that witnessed some of the earliest developments in human civilization - from the rise of the first cities to the invention of writing and the codification of laws. It was also a place where women played a vital and varied role in the social, economic, and religious spheres of life.

Women in Mesopotamia were not a homogenous group. Rather, they were differentiated by class, status, and occupation, and their experiences and opportunities were shaped by a complex set of social, economic, and political factors.

One of the most significant roles played by women in ancient Mesopotamia was as priestesses. These women were responsible for maintaining the temples, performing rituals, and communicating with the gods on behalf of their communities

While women in ancient Mesopotamia had greater legal rights and economic opportunities than in many other ancient societies, they were still subject to gender-based discrimination and patriarchal norms"(Budin,2016:13)

The text from *Women in ancient Mesopotamia* below emphasizes that Mesopotamian women were not a homogeneous population. But they rather had a variety of origins, including distinctions in class, social rank, and occupation. Furthermore, delicate social, economic, and political issues influenced the options and experiences accessible to women.

Ancient Mesopotamia women were seem as the responsible gender for involving in religious duties and keeping religious tasks for their own societies. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020) This may look

like a minor duty in modern times when we think about it. However in ancient times communicating with gods are considered as a big honour. If this much of a big honour was granted to this gender then there might be a switch in the role of gender through centuries.

When the data is combined, the findings show that adult and young men and adult and young females created the majority of the fingerprints. There are visible child prints, however they are only on the handle. It is possible they noticed during the instruction of young potters if there are many prints of different ages and genders on the same objects. Adult and young men working alone, together, and in partnership with adult and/or young women appear to have greater productivity. It is uncommon to find an object with just women's prints, regardless of age. Opposite to previous findings, which reveal that adult women largely produced Neolithic sculptures in Anatolia and that more women than men produced pottery before the establishment of urban states in northern Mesopotamia, this pattern of cooperative labor is dominated by men. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020)

All the good things considered, ancient mesopotamian women still suffer from discrimination. It may even be the starter point of gender inequality. considering what a sort of suffering and challenges inequality brought to the women. (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020).

Women still deal with major difficulties as a result of sexism and patriarchal traditions. And women in ancient Mesopotamia still were given greater freedom and opportunities than in other ancient cultures, such as ancient Greece and Rome. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)

Women could, for instance, possess property, engage in trade, and take part in legal procedures in Mesopotamia. (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020). But of course there were still certain limitations. Additionally, compared to single or widowed women, married women had less authority over their possessions. Moreover, women's legal rights frequently required approval and support of their male guardians or relatives.

Ancient Mesopotamia had prominent female rulers and dignitaries, such as the famous Queen Puabi of Ur, but women were largely excluded from political power

and leadership roles. (Huffman, M.,2016).Patriarchal norms and expectations also limited women's opportunities for education and intellectual pursuits. It has served as the main defense for the exploitation of women's labor, their submission, and their absence from positions of leadership. (Hooks,2004)

In conclusion, women in ancient Mesopotamia enjoyed certain advantages over women in other ancient communities. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020) But sexism and patriarchal standards nevertheless created considerable challenges for them. The study of women in ancient Mesopotamia challenges stereotypes about the functions and achievements of women in human history while providing valuable insights into the complexity and variety of ancient cultures. (Budin,2016:13)

It is needed to be fully appreciated the process of the variety and depth of ancient cultures and to challenge our prejudices about the place and significance of women in human history. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) It is necessary to study ancient Mesopotamian women.

2.3.1 Cultural codes in Mesopotomia

The cultural, political, and financial structure of ancient Mesopotamian civilization can be understood by looking at the lifestyles, experiences, and successes of those women. It can be found that there are many occupations and positions that women can pursue. (Fowler, K., Ross, J., Walker, E., Barritt-Cleary, C., Greenfield, H., & Maeir, A.,2020) While maintaining a degree of independence and responsibility in the family and society at the same time inside the home. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). It is necessary to look at how gender issues connects with various social categories and identifiers, like class, race, and religion. The oppression of women goes beyond all racial and ethnic barriers, but it does not mean that it is the same inside them. (Lorde,1984)

The contributions of women to human history have been examined by research on ancient Mesopotamian women. Research from ancient Mesopotamia suggests that women played a significant role in forming society and culture, literary works, and the development of religious customs. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Their contributions can be seen in the existing archaeological evidence and textual records.

Though women were frequently excluded or talked about as disadvantaged from historical narratives. (Highcock, N., & Tsouparopoulou, C.,2020).

Overall, research on early Mesopotamian women is crucial to gaining a deeper knowledge of the richness and variety of ancient cultures as well as to challenge prejudices about the roles and achievements of women throughout history. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Other than Mesopotamia, Ancient Rome would be a good example of how gender inequality started. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M,2015)

2.4 Women's Lives and Their Influence in Ancient Rome (Approximately 753 BCE-476 CE)

To give another example; Ancient Rome would be a perfect one because of their structural societal norms and rules. The book *Women in Ancient Rome: A Sourcebook* supports this idea saying;

"Although women in ancient Rome were legally restricted, socially subordinated, and economically dependent, they were not powerless. Women had the ability to influence events and decisions within their own families and social circles, and in some cases even at the level of the state. While women were not able to hold public office or participate directly in political decision-making, they could influence these processes through their male relatives or by forming alliances with influential men. Women could also make use of their social networks and personal connections to advance their own interests and those of their families." (MacLachlan,2013:3)

2.4.1 Gender norms and cultural frameworks

In ancient Rome, women had certain legal restrictions, were socially and economically dependent but they did not have total control on their own. (Fischler, S.,1994) In their own households, social networks, and occasionally even on a national level, women had the ability to shape events and make decisions.

Male relatives were a significant tool for persuading women. Despite the fact that women were forbidden from running for a public office or take an active role in making political choices, they could nevertheless use their ties to powerful men to promote their own and their family's interests. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). A woman can use her husband's or her father's influence to have a good marriage or

rise in society. Alliances between women and powerful men can help advance women's interests. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). For example, a woman may marry a man with political power or connections, or have an affair with a powerful man in society. In some cases, women can use their influence to advance causes important to them, such as promoting the interests of a particular faction or defending women's rights.

The woman also had her own social network and personal connections that she could use to further her interests. Women may take advantage of their relationships using other women in their network of friends, for instance, to get wealthy marriages or get invited to significant social gatherings. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Women can influence others around them, including powerful men in their own families and society, by using their own appeal and charm.

In summary, women in ancient Rome encountered significant challenges to gain influence and power, yet they were not totally helpless. (Fischler, S. ,1994) It may be used to advance interests, the interests of one's family, and in specific cases, to have control at the state level.

"The life of a Roman woman was shaped by the gendered expectations of her family, class, and status, as well as by her individual personality and talents. For elite women, marriage and motherhood were the primary goals, but they were also expected to manage households and oversee the education of their children. Women of the lower classes, meanwhile, might be engaged in a wide variety of occupations, including farming, weaving, and selling goods in the marketplace. Despite these differences, all women in ancient Rome faced some degree of legal and social subordination, and their lives were shaped by a complex web of social and cultural expectations." (MacLachlan,2013:67)

The life of a Roman lady was without a doubt molded by a complex set of components, counting her family foundation, social course, and person identity and gifts. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Whereas there were contrasts between ladies of the first class and lower classes, all ladies confronted a few degree of lawful and social subordination, and their lives were molded by a complex web of social and social desires. (Fischler, S. ,1994)

For tip top ladies, the essential objective was marriage and parenthood. Marriage was frequently organized by the family for the purposes of reinforcing collusions or progressing social status, and ladies had small say within the matter. Once hitched, the spouse was anticipated to oversee the family and manage the instruction of her children, especially her children. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Whereas tip top ladies had get to to instruction and may take an interest in mental interests, they were frequently prohibited from open life and political control.

For ladies of the lower classes, the circumstance was distinctive. These ladies might lock in in a wide assortment of occupations, counting cultivating, weaving, and offering products within the commercial center. They had more flexibility and office in their lives than tip top ladies, but they were also subject to misuse and mishandle, especially within the work environment.

2.4.2 The burden of gender oppression in women's daily realities

In spite of these contrasts, all ladies in old Rome confronted lawful and social subordination. Ladies were not permitted to hold open office or vote, and they were subject to the specialist of their male relatives. For case, a lady was beneath the lawful guardianship of her father until she hitched, and after that she came beneath the control of her spouse. In a few cases, a lady seem request to the courts for assurance or equity, but this was rare and frequently troublesome to attain.

The social and cultural desires put on ladies in Antique Rome were moreover complex. Ladies were anticipated to be unassuming, virtuous, and respectful, and to fulfill their obligations as spouses and moms. At the same time, ladies were moreover esteemed for their excellence, charm, and insights, and they may use noteworthy impact inside their families and social circles. In any case, the perfect of the "high-minded lady" frequently put strict limits on women's behavior and autonomy, and those who veered off from this perfect seem confront censure and indeed discipline. (Fischler, S. ,1994)

In conclusion, the life of a Roman lady was shaped by a complex interaction of components, counting family foundation, social lesson, lawful status, and social desires. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Whereas there were contrasts between tip top and lower-class ladies, all ladies confronted a few degree of lawful and social

subordination, and their lives were molded by a complex web of social and social desires.

“In public life, women were excluded from most forms of political and religious activity, but they were able to participate in certain civic rituals and festivals. These events provided opportunities for women to socialize with each other and with men, and to demonstrate their status and wealth through elaborate clothing and jewelry. Women also played a significant role in religious life, as priestesses, devotees, and patrons of various cults. However, their participation in religious activities was often limited by gender-based restrictions and expectations.” (MacLachlan,2013:38)

In numerous antiquated social orders, ladies were avoided from partaking in legislative issues and devout exercises, which were to a great extent saved for men. In any case, ladies were able to take an interest in certain civic customs and celebrations, which given them with openings to socialize with each other and with men.

These occasions frequently included expensive clothing and gems, which ladies utilized to illustrate their social status and riches. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M.,2015) In numerous cases, these celebrations and customs were organized by affluent ladies who utilized them as a way to state their impact within the community.

Ladies moreover played a critical part in devout life, serving as priestesses, lovers, and supporters of different factions. Be that as it may, their interest in devout exercises was frequently restricted by gender-based confinements and desires. For case, in old Greece, ladies were not permitted to take part in certain devout ceremonies, such as the Olympic Diversions, and were precluded from entering the internal sanctum of numerous sanctuaries. (MacLachlan,2013:203)

So also, in Antique Rome, ladies were not permitted to hold the position of *pontifex maximus*, the highest religious office within the Roman religion. (Fischler, S. ,1994) In spite of these confinements, ladies were still able to apply impact in devout circles, regularly by patronizing and supporting specific factions or by serving as mediators between the divine beings and the community.

By and large, the cooperation of ladies in open and devout life changed broadly depending on the culture and time period. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Whereas ladies were regularly prohibited from positions of control and specialist, they were able to apply impact in other ways, such as through social associations and devout support.

"Despite legal and social constraints, Roman women were able to exert agency in their own lives and to leave their mark on the world around them. Many women of the upper classes were highly educated and could become skilled in music, poetry, and other arts. Some women also made significant contributions to medicine, philosophy, and other fields. While women were not able to participate fully in public life, they could use their intellectual and cultural capital to exert influence and gain respect within their own social circles. In some cases, women were also able to accumulate significant wealth and property, which gave them a measure of economic independence and autonomy." (MacLachlan,2013:64)

The statement accurately describes the agency that Roman women were able to exercise despite legal and social constraints. Women of privilege had access to education and social events that let them to grow as their intellectuals and creative people. Considering the fact that they were typically restricted from public life. As a result, they were able to earn respect and exercise influence inside their own social networks.

Roman women were highly educated, and lots of them were talented performers in the arts such as music and poetry. In addition to being able to attend seminars and cultural events, they were able to reach to private instructors. They were able to take part in intellectual discourse and form their own opinions and viewpoints as a result of this schooling.

In addition to contributing significantly to other professions like philosophy and medicine, several women also contributed in other areas. For instance, philosopher Hypatia of Alexandria was well-known for her expertise in mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy. She taught both male and female students, A different case is the gynecologist Metrodora, who was well-known in her day and authored an academic work that is being used today.

Women were able to gather enormous money and property despite their restricted interaction with public life. This provided them a certain level of financial independence and freedom. Perhaps more fascinating than the tale of women's liberation itself is the history of men's resistance to it.(Woolf,1929) They could have financial interests, operate businesses, and inherit real estate. This gave them the power to influence their own families and communities and to stand up for the ideas and people they believed in.

2.4.3 The struggle for equality: women's inferior status in ancient Rome

While being subject to social and legal restrictions, Roman women were able to take some control over their personal lives. That's how they could make an impact on the world. By making use of their creative and cultural resources they gained money and property, and took part in the cultural and social activities of their communities. Only in that way they were able to achieve this.

There were obvious differences between the position of women in Mesopotamia and ancient Rome. On the other hand there were some similarities. Women were assigned an inferior role compared to men in both patriarchal countries. In these countries women's potential and their freedom were limited. (Fischler, S. ,1994)

In ancient Rome, women had more legal rights and freedom in the early Republic compared to later periods, but their primary role was still confined to the domestic sphere. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Women's status and duties in Mesopotamia varied according to the culture and historical period, however they sometimes held positions of authority like priestesses or royal partners (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M., 2018).

Overall, the male-dominated customs and principles of the period and place were carried out in Mesopotamian and Roman communities. This restricted women's potential and placed them in much more inferior roles. The portrayals of these women show more about Roman social attitudes than just the lifestyles of the affluent: they help us understand gender relationships and how they affected Rome's power structures, as well as how men's views toward gender and power influenced how women were portrayed in ancient literary works. (Fischler, S. ,1994)

2.5 Medieval Period (5th to 15th Century)

The Middle Ages, also known as the Medieval Period, extended from the fifth through the fifteenth centuries and were characterized by profound changes in society, politics, and culture. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Women's position and gender roles during this period were greatly affected by Christian teachings and medieval social institutions (Lytje, M.,2004).

Definitions of the feminine as different from the lives led by women during the High Middle Ages were vital in establishing new social limits and power structures. It is contended that the mother and the virgin were two important feminine figures in these categories. The virgin metaphor characterized the Christian community's relationship to the non-Christian other while the mother metaphor was used to depict the internal workings of the Christian community (Lytje, M.,2004).

2.5.1 The influence of Christian dogma and instruction in the middle ages

Christianity was a major force in medieval culture, and its teachings had a significant impact on ideas about gender and the place of women. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)The Church emphasized women's subjection to males and spread the notion that they are inherently inferior to men. Women were frequently portrayed as the temptresses who misled men, drawing on religious tales like the tale of Eve in the Garden of Eden. (Lytje, M.,2004) By positioning women as being responsible for mankind's fall from grace, the church's theology of "original sin" strengthened patriarchal standards and provided justification for the oppression of women. (Lytje, M.,2004) The use of examples was to teach daughters Christian morality and polite behavior; people wanted them to be blessed with the qualities of virginity, modesty, humility, obedience, and manners. (Ward, 2016: 18)

2.5.2 The feudal fabric: Weaving social hierarchies and power structures

Women's position and duties were greatly affected by feudalism, the predominate social and economic structure in medieval Europe. Feudalism's hierarchical structure, which included monarchs, lords, knights, and peasants decided where women fit into this system. It was expected of women of aristocratic origin to play certain responsibilities as spouses, mothers, and guardians of the family dynasty. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994).

The preservation of family wealth and the establishment of mutually beneficial marriages were their main goals. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). As a result, their position was often restricted and they had few options due to their families' political and strategic priorities. Women's work was, however, subject to a range of gender and cultural restrictions, and this restricted the degree of agency they could exercise. The dependence of women expanded to their employment as well as other areas of their existence. Professional work has to be planned around taking care of the family and the home. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Women aren't able to have had a professional structure for this reason, and they hardly ever had enough money to invest in a profession. Typically, they had part-time or irregular jobs, and they were not always financially stable. (Ward,2016:81)

2.5.3 Ethical ideals and Romantic devotion: exploring chivalry and courtly love in the middle ages

During the Middle Ages, the idea of chivalry developed, idealizing the conduct and values required of knights. The knight's use of examples highlights the medieval belief that religion was at the core of all instruction in manners, morality, and literacy. The girl's Christian growth was seen as being helped by the values taught. She was going to put religion into every aspect of her life. (Ward, 2016: 18) Honor, courage, and dedication were praised as virtues by chivalry, but gender norms and expectations were also maintained. (Lytje, M.,2004)

Women were seen as unreachable objects of desire and elevated to pedestals. Interactions between knights and noblewomen were further idealized by the courtly love trendy in culture. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)Courtly love stories frequently presented women as unapproachable and remote, which fueled the idea of rejected or unfaithful love. This vision of women helped strengthen their position as targets of male lust rather than independent beings.

2.5.4 The foundations of male hegemony: investigating the historical development of patriarchy

During the Middle Ages, male control in a variety of arenas of life strengthened and patriarchal systems rose to power. Women's access to the legal system and their ability to own property decreased. (Lytje, M.,2004) Laws and practices

differentiated women's equal access to property and inheritance to the advantage of male inheritance.

Women had less access to education and intellectual activities, and women were frequently left out of positions of political influence and decision-making. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). However, these treatises undervalued the significant role that the community played in the socialization of females, and parents placed a greater value on social and practical abilities than the writers did. (Pieretti, M.,2002). In actuality, the education of girls in the wealthy classes was very much along the same lines as the treatises. Although commonly viewed as important skills and appropriate careers for girls, sewing and embroidery are not the only skills that may be mastered. Girls had to be capable of managing a home. (Ward, 2016: 19)The patriarchal system created a social structure that bound women and limited their possibilities for social, economic, and political growth, along with the belief of male supremacy.

2.5.5 Insights into medieval times

Feudal social structures and Christian teachings had a significant impact on women's standing during the Middle Ages. Christianity encouraged the idea that women were inherently inferior while feudalism gave women defined tasks within the hierarchy. (Lytje, M.,2004)The idea of chivalry and courtly love also had a role in idealizing and objectifying women. Many city women saw an improvement in their situation and prestige as a result of the increasing population of the upper classes during the Middle Ages. This was most obvious in the rapid growth and wealth of the cities. The amount of medieval women's active involvement in manufacturing and distributing goods is most noticeable to modern eyes. Despite the fact that their condition remained difficult and dangerous in comparison to subsequent eras, it stayed the same. In the most developed nations in the final part of the 20th century, city women's economic contribution remained little. (Gies,1978:175)

Altogether, these elements strengthened patriarchal norms, restricting women's career options. A large number of city women saw an improvement in their circumstances and prestige throughout the upper Middle Ages, which was most evident in the expansion and wealth of the towns. (Lytje, M.,2004) Although their circumstances remained challenging and dangerous in comparison to periods that followed, the degree of direct involvement of women in manufacturing and distributing throughout

this period is what most surprises modern observers. The financial benefit of city women has decreased throughout the past quarter of the 20th century in the most developed nations.(Gies,1978:175) Realizing these historical influences is essential to understanding the hardships women experienced throughout the Middle Ages and how they affected gender relations in later ages.

Women experienced a great deal of complexity and contrast during the medieval period. And it lasted from the fifth to the fifteenth centuries. It was a time which can be understood by experiences, difficulties, and social expectations. In order to provide insight on their responsibilities, accomplishments, and the limitations placed on them by the existing social systems, it will examine the complex lives of medieval women. (Lytje, M.,2004)

In medieval culture, women were mostly viewed in the context of their connection to men. It didn't matter whether those connections were those of daughters, partners, or mothers. They were frequently given domestic responsibilities, like running the houses, raising kids, and maintaining the respect and image of the family. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) Women were expected to maintain ethics in their societies and were expected to be pure and virtue-filled individuals wherever they were. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994).

Despite playing crucial roles in maintaining household and social peace, women still had to deal with many obstacles and limitations. Their access to schooling, job possibilities, and power in politics were all restricted by the patriarchal structure. This was in the roots of medieval culture. (Lytje, M.,2004) The majority of the time, inheritance rules favored male descent, putting women in inferior positions with regard to property ownership and rights to inherit. (Gies,1978:22) Women's economic and personal freedom faced significant challenges as a result of these systemic constraints.

Christianity influenced how gender norms and women's status were seen in medieval culture. (Lytje, M.,2004) This was greatly influenced by religion. Drawing on biblical stories like Eve's part in the fall of humanity, religious teachings frequently characterized women as morally inferior. (Gies,1978:43) However, women also discovered options for spiritual satisfaction inside religious organizations, such as

becoming nuns or joining religious groups that provided other ways to express themselves and gain power.

At the two extremes of its rhetorical needs the Church found two perfect symbols: shallow temptress Eve and immaculate Virgin Mary. The perception of women by medieval churchmen differed little from that of laymen: women were properly subject to men because they were physically and morally vulnerable, and lacking in judgment. Yet they were personalities, separate from their husbands (a more liberal view than Blackstone's in the eighteenth century), with their own souls, their own rights and obligations. (Gies,1978:43)

Women in the Middle Ages had great independence and endurance despite the limitations. They managed through the complicated dynamics of power by using social networks, family bonds, and personal relationships to gain influence within their restricted worlds. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Through clever unions, alliances, and support for the arts, certain noblewomen held positions of power that promoted intellectual and cultural advancement.

Although the typical perception of medieval women is on home responsibilities, many of them were involved in different kind of occupations and financial activities. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Women from merchants' and craftsman families frequently made contributions to family companies, while peasant women typically worked in agriculture alongside men. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Some women challenged traditional gender roles by working in trade, running their own businesses, or joining unions in cities.

The complexity of women's life is a bit revealed in medieval literature and art. In literature, the idea of courtly love was common. (Lytje, M.,2004) It presented women as objects of admiration and elevated them to romanticized positions. These portrayals encouraged impossible romantic ideals. And that's why it naturally restricted women's freedom while maintaining room for the exploration of emotions and desires. (Gies, 1978:38)

Women's experiences in medieval civilization were different and influenced by a complex combination of social expectations, religious effects, and individual choice. Women showed determination, found ways to have an impact, and made contributions to the social structure of their communities despite being confined by

patriarchal standards and few chances. Our awareness of the complexity of gender roles and the historical events that have influenced women's lives throughout history can be strengthened by an understanding of the varied experiences that women had during the medieval era. Another way that the upper Middle Ages' intellectual spirit influenced how people saw women's roles and personalities was through their literature. Concerning the role of the mother in conception, science is still in the dark. (Lytje, M.,2004)

2.6 Renaissance (14th- 17th Century)

From the 14th through the 17th century, Europe saw an era of significant cultural, intellectual, and creative change known as the Renaissance. Women's responsibilities, education, and possibilities for creative and intellectual endeavors were all significantly impacted. Women started to become more visible and recognized during this time in a variety of industries, such as art, writing. (Pieretti, M.,2002). There were significant female patrons, authors, and painters who questioned gender stereotypes and helped the Renaissance culture grow. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)

The emphasis is therefore away from the specular image, Woman, produced within a masculine dominated psychological and cultural economy, to the possibility of women's discourses. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M.,2015) The distinctive style of the portrayal of figures and the absence of witness distance from them in the paintings by the female artists who were active in the early modernist movement. These characteristics appeared exactly at the same time as the male ancestry of modernism offered a cold, lifeless worship of vision that reduced everything to a freedom of object before both a questioning and a daydreaming gaze. (Melville and Readings, 1995:58).

2.6.1 Renaissance revolution: challenging conventions and shaping cultural discourse

Women's roles and possibilities underwent a significant change throughout the Renaissance, a time recognized for its revival of learning, creative invention, and cultural transformation. The influence of the Renaissance on women's roles, education, and new chances for artistic and intellectual endeavors are examined. It

also emphasizes the contributions made by important female benefactors, authors, and painters who had a major influence on Renaissance culture. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)

Enlightened Women is both a bold addition to the discussion and a brief summary of modern philosophy. (Assiter, A.,1995)

2.6.2 Intellectual awakening: women's engagement and empowerment in renaissance education

In contrast to the Middle Ages, women's duties gradually expanded throughout the Renaissance to including activities outside of the home. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Although mostly restricted to aristocratic families and the upper classes, women were given access to schooling. Some women were able to engage in intellectual activities and contribute to the cultural and intellectual debates of the period. The reason why for that was their education frequently concentrated on the arts, literature, and moral philosophy.

The era known as "The Century of Women" saw women achieve significant influence via education and entry to a range of academic and professional positions. This book, which is organized as an extensive debate, examines five paradigmatic and ideologically different eighteenth-century Italian writings written by male and female authors, the central idea of which is woman. These include an intellectual discussion, an academic path, a speech, a periodical from the Age of Enlightenment, and a fashion journal. The analysis focuses on the specific manner in which that the demands of the "new science" and the developing Enlightenment goals built on reasonable civil law, modern ethical theory, and practical social ethics took a change in the formal debate concerning women. By identifying the traits of the wide dominant discourse and the counter-discourse regarding women among Italian Enlightenment thinkers (Messbarger, R., 2002)

2.6.3 Intellectual renaissance: flourishing artistry and intellectual exploration

The Renaissance saw a rise in artistic expression and innovation, and women artists were prominent participants in this burgeoning cultural landscape. Famous female painters like Lavinia Fontana, Sofonisba Anguissola, and Artemisia Gentileschi surpassed gender stereotypes to be recognized for their skill and proficiency in

painting. They created outstanding works while opposing the gender stereotypes that were common in the art industry.

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During the Renaissance, women from wealthy and aristocratic families were important benefactors of the humanities and sciences. These women supported and encouraged artists, authors, and academics by using their wealth and power. (Pieretti, M., 2002).

These female patrons took part in the artistic process as well as providing funds for the artists. They influenced the creative work of the era significantly by providing inspiration, the subject, and criticism. Their support and participation challenged social norms and gave women the chance to pursue academic and artistic interests.

The Renaissance increased the variety of options for women by enhancing their status and power in areas such as culture, philosophy, and the arts. (Moran and Pipkin, 2019:22) The accomplishments of significant women during this time, despite the fact that opportunities were largely open to women from wealthy backgrounds, refused conventional gender stereotypes and prepared the way for later generations of women. (Messbarger, R., 2002)

Women today continue to be motivated and given more influence by the heritage of Renaissance women patrons, authors, and artists. (Moran and Pipkin, 2019:13) Their contributions serve as a reminder of the significance of honoring and celebrating women's accomplishments as well as fighting social limits on women's potential. (Messbarger, R., 2002)

Women began to break from traditional restraints and make significant improvements to society, art, and intellectual life during the Renaissance, which was an important moment in European history. (Pieretti, M., 2002). Facing many challenges and limits, important women patrons, authors, and artists of the era surpassed expectations and had a lasting influence on Renaissance culture as well as society. (Konieczny, P., &

Klein, M.,2018) Moran and Pipkin ask if women challenge patriarchy by taking up significant positions within religious societies in which traditions demand that women subject to men? Or are they just choosing situations where patriarchy gives them greater freedom for their lives? Can female playwrights effectively oppose male dominance by showing examples of women using political power in public? (Moran and Pipkin, 2019:20) The Renaissance's impact on gender roles, education, and chances for creative and intellectual achievement created a basis for future developments and gave women the confidence to keep challenging social expectations in their search for success and self-expression (Messbarger, R.,2002)

2.7 Gender Inequality in the Enlightenment Era: Challenging the Boundaries of Reason

The 17th and 18th centuries' long intellectual and philosophical era known as the Enlightenment placed a strong emphasis on reason, individuality, and progress. (Stuurman, S.,2005) Gender inequality remained in society despite advances in human rights and the challenging of established norms throughout this time. The conflict between enlightened goals and the oppression of women is addressed as it examines the continuation of gender discrimination during the Enlightenment. (Assiter, A.,1995)

2.7.1 Expectations and gender roles in enlightenment era

Traditional gender norms continued to exist throughout the Enlightenment, downgrading women to inferior places in society. (Assiter, A.,1995) Women were supposed to spend most of their time in the domestic world, taking care of the home, the children, and the household. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). The idea of separate domains formed, strengthening the belief that women belonged in the home. (Beaviour, 1956: 468) At the same time men only belonged in the world of business and academia.

2.7.2 Navigating the constraints: women's challenges and restricted opportunities

Even though the Enlightenment placed a strong focus on learning and reason, women nevertheless faced considerable obstacles to pursuing formal education and other

intellectual pursuits. (Assiter, A.,1995)Men often had more access to education, with women's education focusing on household skills and moral values. (Beaviour, 1956: 410) Women's exclusion from colleges and universities and intellectual communities contributed to the continuation of their isolation and limited opportunities for their professional and personal growth. (Messbarger, R.,2002)

2.7.3 Philosophical discourses and women's rights

The ideals of freedom, equality, and individual rights were defended by Enlightenment philosophers. (Assiter, A.,1995) The use of these ideas, nevertheless, frequently left out women. Distinguished thinkers who saw women as intellectually inferior and only suitable for household duties included Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant. These ideas helped keep up patriarchal standards and delayed the advancement of gender equality. (Beaviour, 1956: 567)

2.7.4 The paradox of enlightened salons

Enlightenment salons, which were intellectual meetings hosted by powerful women, were significant centers for discussion and sharing of ideas (Beaviour, 1956: 641). These salons maintained social hierarchies while giving certain women the chance to engage in intellectual conversation and public dialogue (Assiter, A.,1995). Women's role in salons was sometimes limited to serving as hosts, which affected their capacity to face larger problems in society.

2.7.5 Women as intellectual contributors

Some women contributed significantly to intellectual life during the Enlightenment despite the obstacles they faced. (Assiter, A.,1995) Authors like Mary Wollstonecraft and Olympe de Gouges rejected gender expectations and worked for women's rights and equality. (Pieretti, M.,2002). "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman," a key essay by Wollstonecraft, fought for equal educational opportunities and challenged traditional ideas of women's inferiority. (Wollstonecraft,1792:12)

While the principles of logic, equality, and development that the Enlightenment era produced, but it failed to sufficiently address gender discrimination. (Assiter, A.,1995) The chances for education, intellectual interests, and involvement in society for women were still extremely limited. The conflict of feminist inferiority combining with enlightened words emphasizes the difficulties of cultural change. Even though proof must be presented or the strong hold of instructions will never be

forced by reason, demanding instructions as an excuse for preventing men (or women) their natural rights is one of the absurd sophisms. The society is formed in the wisest manner, and its foundation is based on the nature of man, happens, in the vague, every thinking being so forcefully that it looks like belief to keep putting forward proofs. (Wollstonecraft,1792:12) But enlightened women's intellectual contributions established a foundation for later feminist groups. This spark continued the battles for equality between men and women and raising issues with the underlying errors of a time that celebrated reason and liberty while maintaining gender inequalities. (Assiter, A.,1995) After Enlightenment Era comes Industrial Revolution. In this time gender equality took another turn.

2.8 Gender Dynamics in the Industrial Revolution: Unveiling the Path to Empowerment

The 18th and 19th centuries' Industrial Revolution saw significant shifts in society, the economy, and technology. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M. ,2015) that is performed which is repeated and maintained via social practices and ideologies rather than an inherent or fundamental trait. As some actions, expressions, and traits are valued while others are excluded or stigmatized, gender inequality and oppression are sustained via these performances. For the freedom and empowerment of people as well as the destruction of oppressive systems are very necessary. (Butler,1990) This time period saw changes in gender dynamics along with the technological advancement of production. This also had an enormous effect on women (Wollstonecraft,1792:20). During this period of dramatic change in society, it will be examined how industrialisation affected gender expectations, the growth of the movement for women's rights, and the birth of the first feminist ideas and activists.

Women are taught from an early age and by their mothers' example that if they are beautiful, they don't need to worry about anything else for at least 20 years of their lives because men will protect them due to their knowledge of human weakness, which is accurately referred to as cunning, softness of behavior, outward obedience, and strict attention to an absurd kind of etiquette (Wollstonecraft,1792:19).

2.8.1 Division of labor and gender roles

Traditional gender roles were changed throughout the Industrial Revolution as men shifted primarily into jobs in industry while women and children were largely limited to domestic. Even if they got jobs, it was mostly low-paying labour. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M.,2015). This division of work emphasized the caregiving and domestic responsibilities of women, supporting the idea of different worlds. Women's labor was underestimated, which increased their dependency on the economy (Wollstonecraft, 1792:22). This raises the centuries-old argument over whether to emphasize gender equality in terms of results or in terms of potential. For instance, a society with equal finances would have men and women participating equally in all fields of work, whether or not they are paid, and earning the same wage for the same work they do (Jacobsen, 2011).

‘Hast thou not made me here thy substitute, ‘And these inferior far beneath me set? ‘Among unequals what society ‘Can sort, what harmony or true delight? ‘Which must be mutual, in proportion due ‘Giv’n and receiv’d; but in disparity ‘The one intense, the other still remiss ‘Cannot well suit with either, but soon prove ‘Tedious alike: of fellowship I speak ‘Such as I seek, fit to participate ‘All rational delight. In treating, therefore, of the manners of women, let us, disregarding sensual arguments, trace what we should endeavour to make them in order to co-operate, if the expression be not too bold, with the supreme Being” (Jacobsen, 2011).

It is also true that there have frequently been formal barriers to women's full involvement in paid employment. Such as restrictions on work hours (quite typical from the turn of the 20th century through the 1920s and 1930s), marriage restricts (requiring women to quit when they get married), and bans on women working in certain professions and industries (often because they were prevented from receiving the necessary training, such as restrictions on women entering the legal profession), (Jacobsen, 2011).

2.8.2 Challenging norms: early feminist thinkers and activists

For feminists, the discovery that patriarchy the social order established on the superiority of men over women is the primary reason for the oppression of women has been a key event (Rowbotham,2015) Early feminist intellectuals and activists who criticized gender inequalities emerged as a result of the shifting social

landscape. Education for women, financial freedom, and equal rights were all defended by pioneers like Mary Wollstonecraft and her classic essay *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. The basis for succeeding feminist movements was set by these early voices.

While the majority of educated thought continued to accept male supremacy in every area of life as inevitable, there were some men and women who did not recognize it as the 'natural' or 'divine' structure of the universe. Many of them thought that women's opportunities, particularly in the intellectual sphere, should be broadened. Though it was occasionally used to refer to the physical attributes of the sexes, the idea of "equality of the sexes" mostly highlighted the equal level in intellectual capacity between men and women. It is significant to remember that this feminist voice was heard well before the Enlightenment. Therefore, early modern feminism cannot be understood as a delayed use of Enlightenment thought to gender. (Stuurman, S.,2005)

2.8.3 Rise of the women's suffrage movement

Women's political consciousness and a sense of unity were strengthened by industrialization. The women's rights movement' establishment was an important moment in the battle for gaining gender equality. (Messbarger, R.,2002) Women like Susan B. Anthony, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked for women's rights to vote. They criticized the privileged character of political structures and calling for equal representation.(Anthony,1873) It was also supported this idea in Jacobsen's assessment paper that Western nations experienced a growth in the fight for gender equality throughout the nineteenth century, as well as a broader motivation for equal legal rights for men and women. The majority of nations followed New Zealand's lead in giving women the right to vote in the early 20th century (e.g., Denmark in 1915, the United States in 1920), while many did so much later (Liechtenstein in 1984; Kuwait in 2005). (Jacobsen,2011)

2.8.4 Working-class women: exploitation and activism

In the development of the Industrial Revolution, women worked in mines, factories, and textile industries. They faced with poor working conditions. These women had to deal with oppression, hard hours, and low pay (Huffman, M.,2016). Questioning if the women are individuals or not is the sole issue that remains to be resolved at this

time. And it is not possible that anyone will have the courage to claim otherwise. Women are individuals because they are people. No state has the authority to create or conduct any laws that would limit their rights or advantages. (Anthony,1873) As they suffered the challenges of industrial duties, their dissatisfaction sparked anger and group formation. There were protests and labor movements headed by women, calling for better conditions at work and fair pay. (Huffman, M.,2016)

The discussion of gender equality and sustainable development has also involved the World Bank. Sen (2016) notes that the World Bank has made an effort to demonstrate how gender equality might lead to faster economic growth. However, this view frequently ignores the problems brought on by neoliberal policies like budget cutting, a decrease in worker rights, and uncontrolled capitalism. The World Bank has not completely acknowledged the value of women's human rights (Kabeer, N,1999).

2.8.5 Transformation of gender expectations

The introduction of women into the industrial industry reshaped cultural norms and slowly changed how people saw women's potential. As women proved that they were valuable in a variety of fields Other people's attitudes about their intelligence and physical abilities started to change. (Messbarger, R.,2002) Although it has not been demonstrated, superior male production may be possible. Biology is important. As well as strength and other factors can have an effect on productivity, but it depends on the type of labor. (Burnette,2008:5) This only helped overcoming old prejudices and opening up possibilities for more equality between men and women.

The Industrial Revolution had a significant influence on the dynamics of gender. It secured traditional positions but also offered chances to question accepted norms. It created possibilities for women to take part in activism and fight for their rights. It created an imbalance of labor that limited them to domestic work and low-paying jobs. (Huffman, M.,2016)The development of feminist thinkers and the fight for women's right to vote, and the activism of working-class women all added significantly to the freedom and empowerment of women. The business should have made more money if women mule spinners were indeed less productive and paid less. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). In spite of paying the women spinners lesser prices for each piece, the company discovered that its earnings were decreasing. It appears that in this specific case, the variation in price per piece could be explained

by differences in production. (Burnette,2008:90) The Industrial Revolution started as a chain reaction of change that still shapes gender dynamics and feeds current equality movements in modern society (Gonzales, C., Jain-Chandra, S., Kochhar, K., Newiak, M., & Zeinullayev, T.,2015).

Large gender inequalities and low levels of women's empowerment are typical today. In a nation where women are highly empowered and there is little gender inequality, less than 1% of women and girls live there. According to the WEI, women are only enabled to realize 60% of their full potential globally, while the GGPI measures critical human development characteristics, where women typically outperform men by 28% on average (Un Women Data Hub, 2023).

2.9 First and Second Wave Feminism (19th to Early 20th Century)

Feminism resulted in two big waves in the late the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It sparked an international movement for women's rights. When activists began calling for the right to vote, legislative changes, and acceptance in society during the First and Second Waves of Feminism. (Snelling, S.,1999)It was an important moment for gender equality. This examines the ups and downs of these movements, focusing on how they affected the search of equality, the public's mindset and women's rights.

Marx's technique is essential for determining the larger-scale processes and capitalist structural circumstances that underlie the disparity between men and women in capitalist countries, and the boundaries of political and legal changes to eliminate gender inequality. (Giménez, M.,2005) The oppression of women is the obvious, visible result of underlying relations between men and women that are shaped by the relationship between the capitalist mode of production and the structure of physical and social reproduction among those who must sell their labor power to survive (e.g., in the labor market, socioeconomic classification, domestic division of labor, bureaucratic authority structures, etc.). Therefore, feminism must recognise that the majority of women are working women whose fate depends on their ability to earn a living. (Snelling, S.,1999)

2.9.1 First wave feminism: Suffrage and legal reforms

The right for vote was an important aim of First Wave Feminism. (Giménez, M.,2005) This goal changed in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Activists for women's voting rights like Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Emmeline Pankhurst. They fought against unfair laws and typical gender rules. Significant accomplishments, like the Suffragette campaign in the UK and the final empowerment of women in other nations, were the result of their work. (Anthony,1873)

2.9.2 First wave feminism: Suffrage and legal reforms

First Wave feminists pushed for social and legal reforms in addition to political rights. They battled for women's equality in the workplace, access to education, and the ability to own property and file for divorce (Gheaus,2015:5). Their campaign challenged deeply rooted patriarchal norms and set the stage for later achievements in gender equality.

It should be thought about living in a society with fair institutions, people, and relationships, but it has been concerned about the democratic processes that are being used to form that society. By highlighting the need of rational and expressive democracy in providing women power and a voice, as well as by looking at how the gendered division of labor has continuously restricted women from democratic participation, feminists have made significant contributions to democratic philosophy (Gheaus, 2015:10).

2.9.3 Second wave feminism: Challenging patriarchy and gender roles

The battle for women's rights resurfaced again. Social standards were questioned by the Second Wave of Feminism. (Giménez, M.,2005) This appeared in the middle of the 20th century. The traditional gender roles and expectations that are put on women were criticized. They were activists like Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, and Gloria Steinem. (Gheaus,2015) In addition women calling for equal pay, reproductive rights, and an end to violence against women, they wanted to destroy restrictive systems. (Huffman, M.,2016)

2.9.4 Intersectionality and inclusive feminism

The significance of intersectionality was also highlighted by second wave feminism. (Snelling, S.,1999)This acknowledged how various social identities are among them. These are race, class, and sexual orientation. They influence how women see the world. Audre Lorde and Bell Hooks, among others, campaigned for a more open-minded feminism that recognized and addressed every layer of oppression. (Gheaus,2015) The emphasis has switched from individual faults and struggles to larger social, political, and economic systems that maintain inequalities based on gender (Rowbathom, 2015).

Even if the methods used to oppress women vary, each one experiences it differently. The experiences of women are shaped and complicated by the connection of race, gender, and other identities, leading to specific kinds of oppression that need to be understood and fought (Lorde, 1984).

2.9.5 Lasting impact and ongoing struggles

Women's rights and society perspectives have been profoundly and permanently affected by First and Second Wave Feminism's campaigns. (Giménez, M.,2005) These movements' successes opened up opportunities for legal changes, better access to jobs and education, and more political and social engagement for women. However, issues like the gender wage gap, the discussion of reproductive rights, and the struggle against gender-based violence still exist, highlighting the necessity for feminist activity to continue. The basic issues of democracy and equality have been deeply affected by feminist political thought (Gheaus,2015).

The Agenda made strengthening women's rights a central component that cut across all other goals, building on promises and standards stated in the BPfA and beforehand major frameworks, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). "The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities," states paragraph 20 of the 2030 Agenda (UN 2015a). Gender equality is essential for achieving all of the objectives, according to the following sentence: "The systematic inclusion of a gender perspective in the enactment of the Agenda is crucial."(UN Women DataHub, 2020).

First and Second Waves' movement for gender equality saw a turning point with the demands of the right to vote, changes in law, and social status acknowledgment. These revolutions set the ground for improvements in women's rights by challenging deeply established gender roles. Even if there has been a lot of progress, the challenges of the past are still felt today in the fights for intersectionality, gender equality, and the fall of authoritarian governments. The rise of feminism serves as a reminder of the strength of activism as a whole and the continued work required to achieve full gender equality (Giménez, M., 2005).

While gender inequality has much improved since the days of ancient Rome and Mesopotamia, it is still a problem in many regions of the world.

Modern cultures have made tremendous progress in giving women legal opportunities and rights, including the capacity to vote, access to school and the workforce, and the freedom to own property (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M., 2018).

However, women still face barriers to equal participation in many areas, including politics, leadership roles, and equal pay (Huffman, M., 2016). In addition, discrimination based on gender and violence against women remain serious issue everywhere.

Various social, political, and cultural developments over time can be considered as the cause of the advancements made in the direction of gender equality. To address inequalities between gender and improve the rights and opportunities of women, there must be regular efforts. These efforts are really needed. This involves fighting against discrimination and violence based on gender, dealing with male-dominated standards and attitudes. To fight and destroy the structures that oppress them, it is essential to acknowledge the variety of experiences of women and to increase the voices of oppressed women. (Lorde,1984) At the same time increasing equal chances for women to leadership positions, the workforce, and educational opportunities. (Huffman, M., 2016).

Although women's status in sophisticated civilizations has considerably improved since the ages of Rome and Mesopotamia, gender inequality still exists in many parts of the world in various forms.

Higher social class women have made significant progress in claiming their legal privileges, like: In any case, there are still barriers preventing women from receiving

help in many sectors, including pay rises, administrative challenges, and legal problems. In addition, violence and sexism towards women are serious problems. (Huffman, M.,2016).

Various social, political, and cultural developments over time might be considered as contributing to the advancement of gender equality. In any case, more work has to be done to end gender inequality and advance the rights and empowerment of women.

This includes challenging patriarchal standards and values, tending toward gender brutality and segregation, and promoting break-even points in women's entry, labor, and management.

In this chapter, it is tried to trace back how gender issues change society's structure and family ties while creating social and cultural barriers for women at the same time forcing a role onto men. It has been shown step by step through history.

Gender inequality and related concerns have existed throughout history in a number of civilizations, having an effect on people's lives in various generations. Understanding the development of gender duties, goals, and battles for equality involves a grasp of feminism, the Industrial Revolution, the Enlightenment Era, the Renaissance, Medieval times, Ancient Rome, and Mesopotamia.

First one that was mentioned in this chapter is Mesopotamia. Social functions were strongly separated along gender lines in ancient Mesopotamia. Women's rights were severely limited and women were also expected to take care of the home and children. Even when a few strong women entered politics, they were the exception rather than the standard. The political and economic areas were controlled by men. This strengthened patriarchal systems.

Then it was mentioned about Ancient Rome to show in an order that the society and its needs from women and men stays similar. It may not be exactly the same way. Compared to several other ancient cultures, women enjoyed stronger legal rights in Ancient Rome. Their functions were remained mostly restricted to the private area, though. They had little opportunity to get an education or engage in social activities. There was still a patriarchal system in place, and women's duties were mostly defined by marriage and motherhood.

The third one is Medieval Times. Feudalism developed during the Middle Ages, adding to the rules of gender. Women were often limited to household duties and had

inferior status in society to men. Women's role in religious and political organizations was limited by the Church's principles, which supported the notion that women are inherently inferior.

Then the fourth one mentioned in this chapter was Renaissance. Though women made significant contributions throughout the Renaissance, these were frequently overlooked. Getting credit for their work presented significant challenges for female artists, authors, and academics. Women had few educational options, which limited their access to careers and leadership positions.

Then Industrial Revolution started. An amazing socioeconomic shift took place about by the Industrial Revolution. While it gave some women in factories and industries access to new economic opportunities, it also strengthened established gender norms. Men were the main laborers and women the primary carers, supporting the notion of "separate spheres" and limiting women's financial and political freedom.

The last step of the countdown in this chapter was Feminism. During the 19th and 20th centuries, feminism started to develop, drawing attention to inequality between men and women and trying to challenge oppressive traditions. Feminism's waves focused on topics including job discrimination, rights to reproduce, and the right to vote for women. The goal of feminist movements was to overturn patriarchal systems and establish a society that is fair.

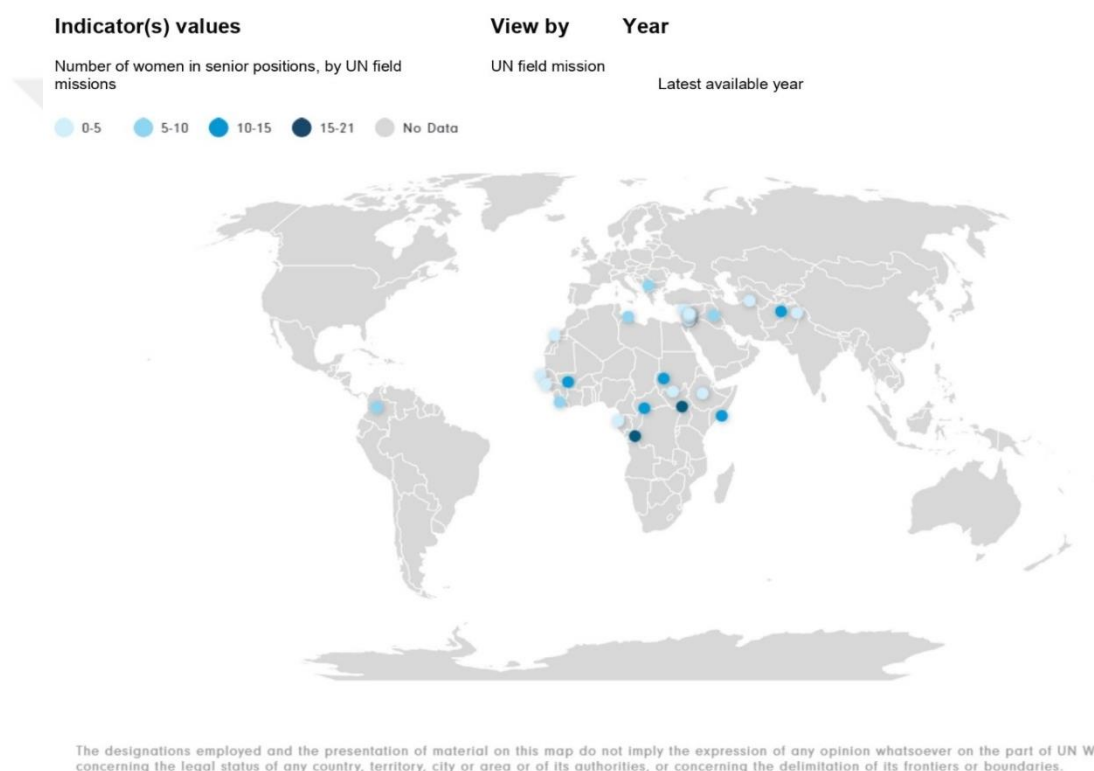
Women and other mistreated genders have tried terribly throughout history to achieve equality and acceptance. Although there has been progress, there is still gender inequality in numerous forms. These historical periods' traces continue to influence views and expectations around gender roles.

To successfully fight inequality by gender, it is crucial to question established norms, advance knowledge and understanding, and support laws that guarantee equal chances for people of all genders. Knowing the historical background enables us to acknowledge both the achievements and the work still to be done in order to build a more equal and welcoming future.

3. UNVEILING CONTEMPORARY GENDER INEQUALITIES: A CLOSER LOOK AT MODERN REALITIES

3.1 Modern Results

Thematic Area Dashboard



So many things have changed, women are able to voice their problems. Even though big changes, some countries are going through inequalities rather much bigger than the others. It is a very critical issue. There are several obvious cases for the lack of basics of human rights. Discrimination legally leaves women inferior and less powerful to men.

For example, in Saudi Arabia, women cannot drive cars without their fathers or husbands to accompany them from one place to another. In Egypt and Bahrain, husbands have every right to stop their wives from travelling while some countries need a permission paper from their husbands to travel. When thinking about how

much of human rights we have accomplished, it remains surprising and mindnumbing fact that some countries cannot grant just simple gestures as travelling to their women citizens let alone accept them as one full citizen.

Another example is nearly half of the young women population in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are married by age of 18. This percentage of child marriage shos that women of young age may not succeed giving birth. Much more important thing is that it is not possible at these ages they can select their own partner as a human right. As an example to this, in Pakistan women are supposed to accept their arranged marriages, they do not have much of an option to call it off. If they tend to refuse the arrangement, they can get killed and they even have a name for these killings, “honor killings” Governments are aware of this situation and they are looking the other way.

In most of Middle East region, governments are to follow religious doctrines and gender inequalities for that matter are very common. Men in those regions are superior, they can divorce their wives very easily by just oral renunciation. Women at the same scenario do not have similar rights let alone they cannot imagine doing the same. In Lebanon if a woman is abused or treated violently in their marriage, that woman cannot file a divorce. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Only reason that they can divorce their husbands is that they have an eyewitness to testify on their behalf.

Except than Israel, Iran, Tunisia and some parts of Egypt, women cannot give their citizenship priviliges to their own children. However men can pass their nationality to their children and to even non-national wives if they liked. Women in Turkey and Slovakia cannot participate in the army to combat even though it is a right to defend their country when permission was granted.

3.2 Household Chores

In some countries, without even consulting in any way children are given to the custody of the father. Women are left behind without any financial support. In Bahrain, family laws are not organized enough to even give a chance for the mother to claim their rights. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). They are given directly to their fathers and there is no saying in there in a lawful manner.

These so to say rights are nothing of value to women because in some countries they are vulnerable because of their sexual selection which they have no saying in. These

result in violence in marriage. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). When one of the parties of the marriage have no right or no voice in any matter, it is very easy to push onto any idea or violence as there is no way there can be consequence for these men trying to violate the most basic agreement of their marriage. For example in India, the rape laws are not applied to married women because they cannot be filing against their husband even if they do there is no law to support it. (Das, D., & Pathak, M.,2012) That's why one of the biggest rates in violence in marriage is called spousal rape.

These violence in marriages happen in under-developed countries while in developed countries women are having problems about their wages. Highest paying job opportunities are mostly controlled by men and even if it is the same work load when women fulfill the job they earn only 77 percent of what men make of the same job. (Huffman, M.,2016) In this gender inequality, for men and women to be equal it would nearly take half of their life-time to pass to be even in wages.

When talking about wages, it may look like there are some progress we cannot say it for every field. In some countries religious laws especially ban women owning property under their own names. These government claim that they present their citizens equal rights at the same time they are not granting women citizens any right to own a land such as North Sudan, Tanzania, and Lesotho. Male owner of the house can control the property and the land, women cannot. In Zambia, men and women are permitted to own a land or a property, the only condition for that is their husbands give them their permission to own a land.

3.3 The Oppression in Afghanistan

When calculated for the percentage of women who can write and read or even having a possibility of having an access to having education is very low such as Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) In this particular country, the girls who try to have their rights of education are recognized as they are doing a very bad deed to the society and being attacked for just the desire to attend schools. A right to education regardless of the child's gender is a human right, it is a basic need. For any of the countries pass these issues by goes through involving more in education.

It shows that women are going through some injustice when it comes to having wages or owning land. Their jobs in their own households are the topic of men in power. It is not just inequalities in the eye of the public. They do not have the formal legal opportunities to drive a car on their own or owning a property.

There is a huge difference between how the equality looks on the books and how it is on reality. In economical era, when considering women should be paid when it is the worth of the job regardless of the gender.

None of the countries are perfect if there is any calculation of what is going on to women or men for that matter. But the government should be dealing with their citizens' rights and their rights to get education, work and getting paid equally. All these reasons show that geographically or not gender issues are not near to be over

If current issues of gender inequality are considered internationally, the worst cases would probably be Afghanistan, India, and Syria. (Das, D., & Pathak, M., 2012). Women's rights, especially social and political rights, are significant issues that have an impact on how a nation's politics develops. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, many Afghan women have been denied access to their rights and advantages. The goal of this study is to look into and identify the barriers that women's political engagement in Afghanistan faces, as well as to provide solutions that might ease these challenges. The findings demonstrate that there exist obstacles to women's political engagement, most notably those of cultural, historical, and ideological nature. Current socioeconomic realities in Afghanistan support cultural lifestyles that are patriarchal and centered on masculinity. Religious teachings are defined and interpreted as masculine and favorable to males by the patriarchal framework of our society (Meera, M., & Yekta, K., 2021).

3.3.1 Patriarchy in Afghanistan

At its core, Afghanistan has a long background of being a patriarchal culture from the beginning. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M., 2018) Women have historically been considered as disadvantaged compared to men and have had responsibilities that have been mainly limited to the house and nowhere else. A complicated set of ideas, customs, and behaviors known as patriarchy gives males priority and puts women beneath them. It is a constantly shifting framework that has grown and changed through time rather than a fixed or unbreakable structure. (Rowbotham, 2015) The

Taliban government, which controlled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, increased the inequality by severely restricting women's rights, such as banning females from going to school or working outside the house. (Skaine,2008)

Women's rights in Afghanistan continue to stay extremely limited despite the collapse of the Taliban government and the establishment of a new democratic government. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) The fall of the government was expected to be the end of this gender inequality in Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) However it is not the reality. It is impossible to escape gender-based violence, which directly includes abuse at home and sexual harassment, and lack of access to healthcare and education, especially in rural regions. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). In terms of representation in parliament and opportunities for administrative positions in both the public and private industries, women are underrepresented in both of these areas. (Skaine,2008)

Tending to the issue of gender inequality in Afghanistan requires a multifaceted approach that addresses the root causes of segregation against women, including social states of mind, poverty, and need of access to assets and education. (Skaine,2008) It moreover requires the active participation of women in decision-making processes, the foundation of legitimate and institutional systems to secure their rights, and the support of the international community in advancing gender balance and women's strengthening within the nation. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021)

Patriarchal states of mind and practices in Afghanistan and other nations continue to limit women's opportunities and put them in a subordinate position in society. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) In order to challenge and destroy patriarchy's oppressive methods and work towards a more equal and fair society, it is essential to understand how patriarchy works.(Rowbotham,2015) Patriarchy may be a framework of social organization in which men hold primary control and authority and rule in political, financial, and social circles, whereas women are considered inferior and are excluded from decision-making and authority roles.

In Afghanistan, patriarchal states of mind are profoundly influenced in cultural and social standards, and they influence all angles of women's lives. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) For example, women are anticipated to prioritize their domestic obligations over education and career opportunities, which limits their

capacity to participate completely in society. (Skaine,2008)Women are moreover subject to segregation within the working environment, with unequal pay and restricted access to higher positions. (Huffman, M.,2016)

In addition, patriarchal practices frequently result in violence against women, including domestic abuse, honor killings, and forced marriages. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). These practices not only abuse women's human rights but even more so they restrict their capacity to participate in society and accomplish their full potential.

Mentioning patriarchal states of mind and practices in Afghanistan requires a comprehensive approach that includes changing social standards, moving forward with women's access to education and employment opportunities, and strengthening legal and institutional systems to ensure women's rights take their rightful place which is in women's involvement. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003)It is additionally vital to raise awareness about the negative affect of patriarchal practices and promote gender equality and women's empowerment at all levels of society.

The international community plays a critical part in supporting efforts to address patriarchal attitudes and practices in Afghanistan by giving financial and technical help, supporting gender-sensitive arrangements and programs, and pushing for women's rights and empowerment. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) By working together, there might be a more fair and even society for women in Afghanistan and around the world while doing so in one of these problematic countries.

3.3.2 Taliban's influence on women's right

Rosemarie Skaine's *Women of Afghanistan in the Post-Taliban Era: How Lives Have Changed and Where They Stand Today* supports the idea of Afghan women going through life lacking certain needs and improvements in their lives even though the need for equal rights have been put out there for a long period of time by so many resources.

Basic human rights for Afghan women, such as the right to an education, the right to work outside the house, and the freedom to take part in political and social activities, have long been denied. (Skaine,2008:4) It is talked about how women in Afghanistan have always been withdrawn from basic human rights like education, employment

outside the home, and participation in political and social activities. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). This means that women in Afghanistan have historically seen as not such an important part of the society and they were not a part of different aspects of life. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003)

For example, girls were not allowed to go to school before the Taliban regime fell, and women were disapproved from working outside the home. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). This made it harder for women to get jobs and earn their own money. Also, women could not be able to have a say in political or social activities, this stopped them from taking part in important decision making process and feeling like they are a valuable part of their community. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021)

After Taliban's fall there have been so many positive improvements, but thinking their current position in society, it is no where to be over. There is so much work need to be fixed and women's right should be reserved for them in Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) It's very crucial to comprehend the process that Afghanistan had it in the past for women. Without a good analysis what is the historical reason behind this inequality and work on what is stopping them from moving forward that if they wouldn't be able to stop limiting women's opportunities and participation in every day life. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003)

It can be seen in this quote that Afghanistan still goes through problems in their society in modern times stated by Skaine. Despite small changes, gender inequality is still a serious issue in Afghanistan. (Skaine,2008:8)

The phrase "gender inequality" here refers to the unfair treatment of individuals based on their gender. In Afghanistan, in spite of a few changes in women's rights, gender inequality is still a critical issue. (Skaine,2008:9) This implies that women and girls in Afghanistan are not treated even as men and boys get treated, and they are regularly denied access to the same opportunities and resources. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003)

The term suggests that there have been a few positive changes in women's rights and status in Afghanistan. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) In any case, it is recommended that these changes have not been sufficient to balance gender inequality totally. In other words, in spite of the fact that there have been a few

changes, there's still a long way to go to attain gender balance in Afghanistan. (Skaine,2008)

The phrase "critical issue" emphasizes the reality of gender inequality in Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) It highlights the reality that gender inequality isn't just a little considering it has not improved not even slightly, but a major obstacle that influences many aspects of life for women and girls within the nation. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) This means not only education but also work, healthcare and political cooperation and so many other features of living in a society.

This way the author recommends that people should know that in spite of a few advance, gender inequality is still a critical and serious problem in Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021)This implies that it is vital to keep working towards gender balance within the nation, in order to guarantee that women and girls have equal opportunities and can take part fully in society without any of these problems that they already face on daily basis. While there have been major advances for women in Afghanistan following the fall of the Taliban, there is still a long way to go before gender equality and women's empowerment are achieved. (Skaine,2008:152).

Sima Wali's article also supports the idea that *Afghanistan's Gender Apartheid* talks about the extreme limitations on women's rights and opportunities under the Taliban administration in Afghanistan. Wali argues that the Taliban's treatment of women was one of the most noticeably awful cases of gender apartheid in present day history, which the international community includes a duty to back Afghan women in their battle for gender balance.(Wali,2002)

Beneath the Taliban administration, women were subjected to a strict way of living of Islamic law that seriously restricted their opportunities and freedoms. One may say there was not much of freedom. Women were constrained to wear the burqa, a full-body covering, and were banned from leaving their homes without a male relative. (Wali,2002) Women were also prohibited from working and going to school and were subjected to public executions for perceived as an ethical transgression.

Wali tries to explain that women's rights are fundamental to Afghanistan's stability and advancement, as women play a critical part in building united communities and expanding social and financial advances into any nation. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M.,

& Iacopino, V.,2003)The international community, in this manner, includes a obligation to support Afghan women in their battle for gender balance and to hold the Afghan government responsible for its commitments to women's rights.

Whereas a few advancements has been made within the region of women's rights in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban administration, much work still remains to be done to guarantee that women can completely take part in Afghan society and work out their rights and opportunities. Wali calls for investment in education and economic possibilities for women, as well as tougher legal protections for women's rights. (Wali,2002)

In general, Wali's article highlights the critical need for much more required support and consideration to women's rights in Afghanistan, and emphasizes the critical part that women play in building solid, steady, and prosperous communities. Here how Wali expresses it in the article ;

“The Taliban regime imposed a strict interpretation of Islamic law that severely restricted women's rights and freedoms, including the right to education, work, and movement.

The Taliban regime's treatment of women was one of the worst cases of gender apartheid in modern history, with women being forced to wear the burqa, barred from leaving their homes without a male relative, and subjected to public executions for perceived moral transgressions.

The international community has a responsibility to support Afghan women in their struggle for gender equality and to hold the Afghan government accountable for its commitments to women's rights.

Women's rights are essential to Afghanistan's stability and development, as women play a critical role in building strong communities and promoting social and economic progress.” (Wali,2002)

Another reference to the inequality in Afghanistan, Roksana Bahramitash's report emphasizes the critical significance of women's rights and gender balance in Afghanistan. By improving the conditions how women take part in public life, peace-building exercises, and economic possibilities, (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) Afghanistan can overcome the challenges that stop women from working out their rights and taking an part fully in Afghan society. (Meera, M., &

Yekta, K.,2021)In the pretext of tradition and religion, Afghan women have been forced to extreme limits and isolation in their public lives. This has resulted in women being cut off from society, preventing them the chance to engage in economic, social, and political activities. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Due to the limitation of women's social and economic duties to inside of their homes, they have little to no access to higher learning, medical care, work, or political representation. (Bahramitash,2003) Advocating women's rights and gender equality is essential to accomplishing maintainable advancement in Afghanistan and building a more quiet, steady, and prosperous future for all Afghan citizens.

This emphasizes the significance of women's cooperation within the peace creation to guarantee that their rights and interests are taken under consideration. Women's cooperation in decision-making forms and peace-building actions can some help to challenge gender generalizations more even gender relations. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) By counting women in peace-building activities, they can play a vital part in building a more settled and steady Afghanistan. For women's rights to be respected, women's role in the search for peace is important. Women must be given an active role in the process of decision-making for that to happen. In this way opportunities must be created for them to take part in efforts to build peace at all levels. Participation of women in efforts to build peace may also support a breakdown of gender stereotypes and the development of more equal interactions between men and women. (Bahramitash,2003) Women's interest within the peace preparation can help to guarantee that peace-building activities are more successful and maintainable by taking into consideration the different perspectives and needs of all individuals of Afghan society. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003)

This is from Roksana Bahramitash's report *Afghanistan: Women, Gender and Development* stresses the importance of women's financial strengthening for their capacity to take part completely in Afghan society and own up to their rights. Women's financial strengthening requires more investment in women's education and training in different aspects of social life, as well as the creation of financial opportunities that are available to women. Women's financial strengthening can too support to challenge conventional gender roles and advocate more balanced gender relations. By giving women with much bigger financial possibilities, they can end up with more freedom and take much more part completely in all aspects of Afghan

society. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) Afghan women should realize their rights and fully engage in society in order to do that economic empowerment is essential. This suggests greater financial support for women's education and training, as well as the development of jobs that are open to women. Women's economic development can also support more equal gender relations by challenging established gender norms. (Bahramitash,2003) This, in turn, can help to improve maintainable financial improvement in Afghanistan.

This highlights the vital importance of improving women's rights and gender balance to have maintainable improvement in Afghanistan. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V.,2003) Building up lawful systems that ensure women's rights and improving women's support in all perspectives of Afghan society are crucial and very urgent to accomplish this aim. Women's rights are not only for improving gender balance but also making the nation much more peaceful and maintained Afghanistan. (Meera, M., & Yekta, K.,2021) In any case that Afghanistan is to flourish effectively, gender equality and the growth of women's rights must be encouraged. In order to achieve this, it is necessary to develop some laws. These laws should preserve women's rights and offer women a chance to take part in every aspect of society in Afghanistan. Women's rights are important to build gender equality in Afghanistan as well as stability, peace, and long-term growth. (Bahramitash,2003) By giving women's rights to women and gender balance, Afghanistan can build a more comprehensive and balanced society, which can contribute to much bigger financially thriving and maintainable improvement. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V., 2003).

Laws restricting women's rights in Afghanistan during the Taliban were not the result of long-standing customs or severe social and economic hardship. Instead, they were created by humans that could be abolished as quickly as they were passed. In Afghanistan, especially in regions under the authority of the Taliban, the level of depression among women was quite high. To enable women's full involvement in development, current efforts to reconstruct Afghanistan must address the high rate of depression and other mental health issues. (Amowitz, L., Heisler, M., & Iacopino, V., 2003).

3.3.3 Taliban's return to power: Unpacking the latest developments

The rights and freedoms of Afghan women and children have not yet been restored since the Taliban took control of the country in August 2021. Since the cancellation of women's university education and the ban on female staff working for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and UN agencies, restrictions on their freedom of movement and access to secondary education, livelihoods, and employment have gotten worse. This continues to have a severe negative impact on women's livelihoods and limits the ability of most regions of the nation to provide safety and humanitarian aid for women and girls.

It focuses on the particular issues experienced by affected Afghan women, such as their long-lasting moving, their difficulty finding work, and how they deal with their limited resources by eating less. It was created by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

The Taliban issued two orders to further restrict the rights of women and girls in late December 2022: the first banned female students from attending university for an indefinite period of time; the second banned female employees of non-profit humanitarian organizations from working; and the second was later extended to female employees of UN agencies on 4 April 2023. More than 100,000 women and girls attending public and private universities are affected by the restriction on studying higher education. The additional prohibitions place serious obstacles in the way of supporting women, girls, and less fortunate communities on the ground in addition to limiting female volunteers of their rights and means of survival. (UN Women Data Hub, 2023).

3.4 Gender Issues and Inequality in Aspects in India

When it is about gender inequality, it is best to talk about Indian gender issues as well. India is one of the severe cases of gender imbalance. (Das, D., & Pathak, M., 2012) It can be understood of gender inequality in India as a common and a very complex issue that has an very big impact on women in many areas of their lives. When some of the most significant examples of gender inequality in India were discussed, including the high levels of gender-based violence, discrimination, and

unequal access to resources and opportunities, it showed that India is one of the severe cases of gender imbalance.(Kilari,2020)

The historical, cultural, and social elements can be discussed such as patriarchal traditions, religious restrictions, and race-based prejudice. These contribute heavily onto gender distinction in India. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) It can also state how government programs and efforts can make a difference, like positive action laws and legislative changes, they might even solve gender inequality.

Gender imbalance in India necessitates an all-encompassing strategy that addresses various aspects contributing to this social challenge.(Kilari,2020) Amongst these factors are improving women's access to quality healthcare services, employment opportunities, as well as educational pursuits alongside overturning ingrained patriarchal beliefs and eradicating conventional misconceptions about gender roles. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)

As such strategies get more positive changes within societies over time ensuring fair chances irrespective of one's sex. These are all gender-based distinctions that society has created. Therefore, gender inequality is a type of inequality that is different from other types of socio-economic inequality. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)

In order for women to achieve gender equality and empowerment, education plays a vital role. Through education, women can attain important skills, knowledge and self-assurance required for a complete participation in all societal segments such as politics or the economy. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M.,2015) Conversely, lack of access to education poses higher risk towards women being subjugated by discriminatory practices centred around their gender. In the article of *Gender Inequality in Education in India* by LaxmiNarayan Tripathi expresses this idea pretty obviously about education and its necessity.

It is emphasized how significant education is when it comes to promoting gender equality and empowering women. Through learning, females gain important skills that could help them take part fully in different aspects of society like economy or politics while also improving their confidence levels. (Amin, M., Kuntchev, V., & Schmidt, M.,2015) Women's empowerment and full involvement in the financial, political, and social progress of communities and nations are greatly affected by

education. (Tripathi,2019) Without an opportunity for schooling, they are more susceptible to being discriminated against because of their gender.

Barriers to educational access for girls in India manifest in a variety of forms, with poverty constituting a significant challenge. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) This is evidenced by the inability of many families to cover educational costs and the obligation placed on young women to labor instead of attending school. Another major obstacle is early marriage since young brides are mostly expected to perform more on house chores rather than continue their own education. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). It can be difficult for girls to get education due to a lack of things such as schools and transportation. Finally, gender stereotypes and cultural norms may restrict girls' chances and deter families from supporting their education. (Tripathi,2019)

Sons receive more love, respect, better nourishment, and appropriate medical care than daughters do at birth. That's why the birth of a boy is celebrated whereas the giving birth to a daughter is painful. Girls are taught to stay at home and be introverted, while boys are taught to be strong and extroverted. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) The significance of comprehending the social environment in which girls' education occurs is emphasized. Attempts to encourage education may be less successful if the underlying attitudes and beliefs that restrict females' prospects aren't addressed. To do this, contact to local groups is necessary, as it is raising awareness of the advantages of education for girls and their families. It also demands dealing with the underlying difficulties, such as poverty and a lack of utilities that prohibit girls from accessing school.

3.4.1 Education and rights to ask for the girls

Gender Inequality in Education in India offers important perspectives into what is possible and what are the barriers for improving girls' education in India overall. A number of problems, such as poverty, early marriage, a lack of systems, and cultural norms, limit girls' education in India. (Tripathi,2019) It should support the idea of a helpful framework for comprehending the problem and it should create successful change-oriented goals by emphasizing the significance of education in achieving gender equality and this goal should address the obstacles that stop females from going to school.

The extent to which patriarchal customs and values influence women's experiences in India is highlighted by this quotation. This male-dominated social structure is such a system in which males are in positions of authority and control and women are submissive and given only submissive positions in any area. Since patriarchal norms and beliefs have strong roots in Indian culture, dealing with gender inequalities without also addressing larger social prejudices towards women is impossible. (Tripathi,2019:6) This is seen in many areas of women's life in India, including prenatal gender-biased sex selection, mobility and educational limits for young girls, and constraints on women's work and political engagement as adults. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)Women may still be exposed to male-dominated society standards and behaviors after they pass away, such as the notion that widows should live simple, lonely lives.

This quotation emphasizes how important it is to understand the social environment in which inequality between genders is present in India. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)The religion and economic class-based traditions of India are deeply associated with male-dominated values and beliefs. Since they are deeply held and generally accepted by this type of society, these cultural attitudes may be challenging for women. To fight patriarchal views against women and advance gender equality, raising awareness and educating people might be important. (Tripathi,2019) Therefore, in order to achieve the equality of genders, it is essential to address both the social standards that balance gender inequality as well as the legal and legislative limitations on women's empowerment. It has long been held that gender determines the many traits, roles, and privileges given to men and women in society. These factors are natural and this means unchangeable. The duties and behaviors that are assigned to men and women depending on what gender they prefer are considered as being closely related to gender. Gendering starts as soon as a kid is born in families and society (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)

This emphasizes the value of education and developing public awareness in advancing equality between men and women in India. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) Education may support the cause of gender equality by educating knowledge of the rights of women and the negative effects of inequality based on gender. In order to completely remove the inequalities and attitudes that support gender discrimination, everyone must all work together to build a society that is more fair and

equal.(Gay,2014) This covers both formal education and community-based campaigns to raise awareness of attitudes toward women in general in society.

It is no surprise how caste and gender are intertwined in India. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)Women are coming from lower socioeconomic groups experience a number of restrictions and so many different types of discrimination. (Huffman, M.,2016)A person is born into a certain caste, which influences their rank, line of work, and social contacts. Caste means in a society in which there might be social order in Indian society. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) Women from lower socioeconomic classes frequently experience discrimination based not just on their gender but additionally on their social status, which can restrict their access to political involvement, economic possibilities, and further education. (Huffman, M.,2016) In the study of *Gender, Caste and Power: A Sociological Study of Women in India* by Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya. The author supports the idea of uneven caste system which is entegrated into every aspect of the society. In order to empower women in India, social and cultural obstacles must be removed, especially patriarchal standards and mindsets that limit women's freedom and independence. Gender, socioeconomic status, and other cultural factors connect within complicated ways that shape women's experiences and potential in India, and interaction is a valuable framework for understanding these connections. (Upadhyaya,2019)

The necessity to overcome both social and cultural challenges to improving the status of women in India is highlighted. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012) Social challenges, which include limitations on women's access to school, work, and involvement in politics, are rules and laws that restrict women's rights and opportunities. (Upadhyaya,2019) Cultural obstacles are male-dominated customs and ideologies that limit women's freedom and independence. It is such as the idea that they should put their own responsibilities as wives and moms above what they want for themselves. In India, advancing women's empowerment and attaining gender equality require balancing these challenges. The demographic classification of men and women—how cultures separate men and women and give them various social roles—is known to as gender. The difference between sex and gender was established to address the common tendency to blame the oppression of women on their physical characteristics. (Das, D., & Pathak, M. ,2012)

The sociological study *Gender, Caste and Power: A Sociological Study of Women in India* sheds light on the many types of oppression and discrimination that women in India, particularly those from lower castes, experience. (Huffman, M.,2016)The book offers a helpful framework for comprehending the many aspects that have led to gender inequality in India by underlining how interconnected of gender and caste.That's why it appears as the need to address both social and cultural challenges to women's empowerment (Upadhyaya,2019).

3.5 Syria and War

When it comes to examine another country, it sure is Syria. Syria has been living in violence and chaos for more than ten years. This has had terrible effects on its people naturally. Gender inequality has stayed the same and, in some circumstances, even worse throughout this period of warfare, particularly to women and girls. The reasons, effects, and potential remedies to this problem of inequality between genders in Syria will keep on existing until there can be an actual struggle to fix it. It doesn't look like it will happen any time soon but it is hopeful thing to think about it.

Syria's cultural, social, and political systems are deeply linked with inequality based on gender. (Jayachandran, S.,2014) Syrian culture is ruled mostly by traditional values and ideals that put women in such an inferior role to men that it can limit their access to political, economic, and educational possibilities or any other possible lifelong choices. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018) In many different areas of society, from real estate and inheritance rights to marriage and divorce laws, women are expected to put their obligations as both partners and mothers above their own personal goals. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). If you are a woman, then it is not expected of you to be the main character of your own life goals, your inheritance, and your estate.

These gender inequalities became worse by the ongoing war and related chaos attached to it in Syria, which makes women and girls even more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. (Jayachandran, S.,2014) The abuse of women and girls is believed to be common, with some extreme organizations and government agents both targeting them for sexual assault, forced marriage, and trafficking as well. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Women and girls were especially influenced by poverty and

migration because they cannot afford to have access to essential resources and services like healthcare, education, and hygiene needs.

3.5.1 Gender issues and the link between the society

The effects of gender inequality were not only on women and girls in Syria but also it got its effects on the society too. Due to the absence of females in decision-making, there are now laws and customs that support gender inequality and marginalization. (Jayachandran, S.,2014) Women's capacity to influence the future of their nation and make sure that their freedoms and necessities are taken care of has been prevented by the lack of their voices in peace talks and efforts to recover.

In Syria, gender inequality has had a terrible effect on women and girls because many of them have little choice for health, education, and their job. Many women now have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). There are so many other mental health problems as a result of sexual abuse and exploitation of women. This has caused women permanent physical and psychological harm. Women's well-being and health have been in a really bad place. (Jayachandran, S.,2014) They cannot have access to critical resources and services. This causes numerous deadly diseases that might be avoided if prevented beforehand and newborn death rates continue to be very high. (Upadhyaya,2019)

Syria's gender inequality problem needs for a differentiated strategy that addresses both physical and cultural challenges. The reality is that masculine superiority and privilege exist within society at a far deeper level than anyone can realize. They are supported by society's rules, cultural expectations, and institutional structures that favor men over women. (Gay,2014)Legal changes that can only protect rights for women should be government efforts to advance gender equality in the workplace and in education, and attempts that encourage women's political involvement are all examples of organizational solutions. Challenges to patriarchal rules and attitudes toward women might be made through advertisements and educational programs that support gender equality and women's empowerment, for example. (Jayachandran, S.,2014)

By granting fund and support for gender-sensitive programs and by pushing for women's rights on a national and international scale can play a significant role in promoting gender equality in Syria. (Jayachandran, S.,2014) International actors,

such as the United Nations and civil society organizations should support these programs as well. It's crucial to involve boys and men in movements that encourage gender equality because they may be helpful in opposing patriarchal attitudes and rules toward women. Many men are ignorant of this privilege because of its hidden nature, while many women adopt and encourage these oppressive structures. Everyone must face and fight these deeply rooted attitudes and systems if it is possible to abolish patriarchy and achieve real gender equality. (Gay,2014)

In Syria, gender inequality is a serious and a very complicated problem since women are subjected to several types of oppression and discrimination. These difficulties have been made worse by the ongoing crisis and war in Syria. In there women are now subject to new types of violence and migration. (Upadhyaya,2019) Syria's gender inequality problem calls for a differentiated strategy that addresses both physical and cultural challenges. By giving funds and aid to gender-sensitive programs and projects and by campaigning for women's rights on a national and international scale, foreign players may play a significant role in achieving gender equality in Syria. (Jayachandran, S.,2014)

The historical and political background of Middle East's citizenship development should be one of the highlights. The legal laws and rules that established citizenship frequently kept women and other groups out, such racial and religious groups, from political participation and active involvement in society. Because of this, citizenship in the Middle East has been at the center of disagreements over getting access to rights and resources. A series of formal rules and regulations that formed the legal category of the citizen were developed as part of the process of creating the modern state in the Middle East. In the modern state, this category characterized political activity and membership, and it was defined by a number of benefits and responsibilities. (Joseph and Slyomovics,2000:70) *Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East* by Suad Joseph and Susan Slyomovics support the similar idea as well.

This also demonstrates some of the unique ways that citizenship and gender discrimination happen in the Middle East. This masculine power structures that restrict women's access to opportunities and resources as well as their capacity to fully engage in public life are frequently confirmed through laws and social norms. Promoting full citizenship rights for women in the area depends on removing these obstacles to reach the goal of gender equality.

In the Middle East, gender inequality and citizenship cross in a number of unique ways. Laws and social standards support patriarchal structures of authority that restrict women's access to opportunities and resources as well as their capacity to fully engage in society. Through a number of legal and cultural causes, women in the Middle East have been refused full citizenship rights. These mechanisms, which limit women's travel, opportunities for education, and role in public life, include family laws, nationality laws, and social norms. (Joseph and Slyomovics,2000:158) For the fight in favor of full rights as citizens for women in the area, it is crucial to address these obstacles to gender equality. In the book of *Gender and Citizenship in the Middle East* it is really highlighted in a detailed way.

This statement below emphasizes the value of international partnership and unity in the Middle East's fight for female equality. Women's movements there have been influenced by both regional and international forces, and they borrow tactics and concepts from other cultures. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)The struggles for gender equality across the world include issues that women in the Middle East face as well. While also adjusting their tactics to the particular cultural and political conditions of the Middle East, national feminist movements have functioned as an inspiration and source of support for women's movements. (Joseph and Slyomovics,2000:215). Women in the Middle East frequently face social and cultural obstacles to achieve full citizenship, like judgment, prejudice, and violence. Citizenship is not just about formal legal rights; it also involves social and cultural acknowledgment. Women in the Middle East frequently face social and cultural obstacles to achieve full citizenship, like judgment, prejudice, and violence. Citizenship is not just about formal legal rights; it also involves social and cultural acknowledgment. This emphasizes the significance of understanding how gender inequality is similar and there is the urgent requirement for a feminist movement globally.

This stresses how crucial it is to understand the larger social and cultural environment in which citizenship functions. Women may still face serious social and cultural challenges to full citizenship even when they have formal rights under the law, such as judgment, prejudice, and assault. Ensuring gender equality and full citizenship opportunities for women in the Middle East requires addressing these social and cultural issues broader and much more internationally arena.

This comment demonstrates how the Syrian war has brought chaos on the lives of women and to the rest of the Syrian people of course. Some people believe that war will give women greater future. Syrian women's lives have changed as a result of the battle, but not in the way that some would have anticipated. The terrible reality of battle has destroyed the false belief that combat strengthens women by giving them new possibilities and positions (Joseph and Slyomovics,2000:265). The truth is much more complicated than staying away from the war might bring women a greater future. Crime, migration, and discrimination against women have made it difficult for them to fully engage in society in Syria. (Jayachandran, S., 2014).

This also emphasizes how women had to accept new roles and duties as a result of the war and chaos, they serve as their families' only supplier. However, despite their significant contributions, women's voices have mostly been left out of the peace discussions (Jayachandran, S.,2014). This emphasizes how crucial it is to women's viewpoints and experiences in reshaping Syria's future. Numerous wives have found themselves forced to support their families alone after their husbands were killed, seriously injured, or imprisoned. However, the sacrifices made by women to the war effort have sometimes gone unnoticed, and they have not had an opportunity to speak in the peace negotiations. (Joseph and Slyomovics, 2000:289).

The difficulties that women who were directly affected by the Syrian crisis are very tricky and complicated.(Ward,2015)These difficulties include the possibility of violence and exploitation based on gender, as well as the restricted access to basic and fundamental services like healthcare and education. Supporting the rights of women and wellbeing in an atmosphere of migration requires addressing these issues.

This emphasizes how women's rights have been harmed by the Syrian war, as well as how their faith in the government and its institutions has decreased. Women who have been moved by the conflict have unique difficulties, such as limited access to work, education, and healthcare. In the context of movement, many women are also victims of gender-based abuse and exploitation.(Ward,2015) Women have experienced violence and prejudice based on gender, with little responsibility for these wrongdoings. Balancing gender equality and maintaining the protection of women's rights in Syria require addressing this injustice.

In general, "Syria: The Hidden War on Women" is a disturbing investigation into the difficulties that women encounter in the middle of the Syrian war and chaos. These difficulties include conflict, uprooting, prejudice, and restricted access to necessities like opportunities and services. The goal should be balancing gender equality and reestablishing a society that is more equal and welcoming in Syria resolving these issues (Ward,2015).



4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Bridging the Gap between Expectations and Experience

Genders are not equal. It was a process which has been trying to be changed by women all around the world. When something is not fair, you got to understand its origins how it started, learn about it and then you need connect the dots to today and modern results with few examples of how some countries act out in inequality.

We as human being should understand the fact that gender has so many other relations starting with evolution through sexual selection which shaped their gender roles. These gender roles are only possible if we fix them the way that they are. They do not have to be so. Gender inequality is inevitable but it should be flexible and have a place to make some changes upon. Gender inequalities shouldn't be developed under non-compete circumstances. This can never be a fair prediction among gender relations.

When identified internal risks are always involved when going through genetic effect, life changes, negative life events, or uncontrollable life events. These might be the results for genetic effects for gender inequality

One constant problem has been the generalization of gender discrimination during extensive research and examination of numerous historical eras, from prehistory to the Enlightenment, the rise of the Industrial Revolution, and the spread of feminism. (Stuurman, S.,2005) The cultural, social, and institutional systems that have continuously disadvantaged women by restricting their rights, potential, and total autonomy have been made clear by my research.

Women endured social oppression and legal constraints in ancient societies like Rome and Mesopotamia. Women demonstrated independence among their households and social networks. Despite having little power and influence, using whatever tools they could to control their own lives and fight for their rights. These problems, nevertheless, have been replaced by the larger, common ways of gender discrimination in these countries.

Christian doctrines and feudal systems strengthened the submission of women during the Medieval Period. (Lytje, M.,2004). It even added to gender norms. Being expected to perform household responsibilities and follow to social norms severely restricted women's options for education, intellectual interests, and creative expression. Women patrons, authors, and artists were notable exceptions, yet their accomplishments were frequently met with prejudice and obstacles.

There were signs of development throughout the Renaissance, with a greater focus on culture, the arts, and education. (Konieczny, P., & Klein, M.,2018)Even though there were still many challenges for women, exceptional people overcame the limitations and made great contributions to the fields of thought and the arts. The overall influence of these developments was still limited by the persistence of deeply established patriarchal norms and social expectations.

In spite of the search for reason and advancement during the Enlightenment period, gender discrimination persisted. (Assiter, A.,1995) The ideas of equality and personal freedom did not entirely apply to women, who were still restricted to the home and private life. (Kane, E., & Sanchez, L.,1994). Gender stereotypes were spread by the greatest thinkers of the day. They further restricted women's freedom and added to their perception of inferiority. Though they did so in a limited capacity, powerful women were still able to encourage intellectual conversation and make significant contributions. (Stuurman, S., 2005).

Despite being revolutionary in many ways, the Industrial Revolution made inequality between men and women much worse. Women frequently experienced mistreatment in factories and mines, as well as the challenges of low income and difficult working conditions. The women's right to vote campaign and the development of early feminist intellectuals were the results of a foundation of rebellion that had already been placed. These revolutions prepared the way for later achievements by questioning established patterns and demanding political rights. (Stuurman, S.,2005) The income gap is mostly caused by gender differences in economic involvement in advanced nations with better levels of equal treatment for women in opportunity. Inequality of opportunity, particularly in the areas of education and health, seems to create more challenges to income equality for rising market and developing nations. (Gonzales, C., Jain-Chandra, S., Kochhar, K., Newiak, M., & Zeinullayev, T.,2015)

With the rise of First and Second Wave Feminism significant turning points took place in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. (Giménez, M., 2005). Activists frequently fought for social acceptance, changes to the law and the right to vote. These efforts changed the law while also fueling bigger social discussions about gender equality. The difficulties and victories of the early feminist pioneers set the way for generations to come, leading to continued efforts to tear down unfair systems and pursue true gender equality.

4.2 The Ongoing Challenges and Impact

After months of search, it is obvious that gender inequality has remained throughout human history. This study has also shown the determination, courage, and collective strength of people. These groups stood up to such injustices. Even while there has been progress, there is still more to be done. The gender pay gap, a lack of women in leadership positions, and systematic gender-based violence. (Huffman, M.,2016) These are just a few examples of the many ways that gender inequality still exists.

These results serve as an example that the struggle for gender equality needs ongoing effort and teamwork. It calls for questioning cultural expectations, tearing down patriarchal systems, and promoting feminist thinking. We can help create a more fair and people of all genders by highlighting minority perspectives, supporting genuine efforts, and encouraging fair debate. Although everyone is aware that women and girls from racial and ethnic minorities are frequently more likely to experience poverty, it is not always apparent of their whereabouts or the best approach to contact them. Knowing who is disadvantaged and where they live might help authorities better target their policies and programs. (UN Women Data Hub, 22 July 2020)

We must admit that come to a conclusion with this study thesis, we have just begun to scratch the top layer of a complicated and multidimensional problem. The objective of this thesis is to create a society where everyone, whatever their gender might be, can flourish and contribute by using the information learned from this investigation to spark more talks, research, and action to solve the gender inequality. As the reason for this research was to make gender inequality much more obvious. So that it could be named as an international issue.

My research might reveal that gender inequalities persist across different geographical regions and historical periods, affecting various aspects of life such as education, employment, and representation. I have found that in many regions, girls still face barriers to accessing quality education due to factors like cultural norms, early marriage, and lack of facilities. My research shows that women are often underrepresented in leadership roles and certain industries, leading to a gender pay gap and limited career advancement opportunities. My research highlights how cultural norms and traditional gender roles play a significant role in inequality and limiting women's freedom.



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RESUME

Gizem PARLADAN HATAY

EDUCATION:

- Bachelor: 2015, Ankara University, Language and History-Geography Faculty, American Culture and Literature
- Master: 2023, Istanbul Gedik University, Faculty of Economics, Administrative And Social Sciences, International Relations Department, International Relations (English)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- British-American Academy – English Teacher – 06/2015- 08/2015
- Kartal Time Language Schools – English Teacher – 09/2015-12/2017
- Yıldız Technical University – Lecturer – 09/2016 – 01/2018
- Doğa Colleges- English Teacher- 02/2018- 08/2018
- Bilfen Colleges- 08/2018- 07/2022
- Uğur Colleges – 09/2022- Still working

CERTIFICATES:

- Teen's Talk Couch Certificate QUALIFICATIONS EXPERIENCES Cambridge Studies
- Clil- Context in Learning – Bilfen Schools- (2018)
- Pedagogical Formation Certificate- Sakarya University- (2017)

EXAM RESULTS:

- Yökdil – English Exam – 93.75
- Ales – 76

LANGUAGES:

- English – Proficiency - C1
- German – Preliminary – B1
- Latin – Beginner – A1